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The reflections of memory : an account of a cognitive approach to historically informed staging

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Gilbert Blin
The Reflections of Memory
« Stellingen » / Propositions

1. Opera is the most elaborated and accomplished performing art, but its composite nature has made it difficult to analyze.
2. To consider opera exclusively as a musical genre is detrimental to the true “substance” of this artistic form.
3. Librettos of opera should be analyzed not only in musical or literary terms but also in performing ones.
4. It is not only by making the inventory of the separated historical elements of a performance, and their accumulation in a new one, that a true Historically Informed Performance (HIP) of opera can develop; establishing a system of relationships between these elements is a requisite.
5. HIP of opera productions can only be achieved with the participation of highly specialized performers.
6. Allegory, as a system of language, was part of the baroque culture and therefore should be used as a tool when investigating an opera for a stage production.
7. HIP of opera productions is more submitted to reality of funding and resources than modern productions, because of its pre-industrial nature.
8. Scenic designs are an important outcome of the dramaturgy and should enrich the narratives already present in poetry and music.
9. Mass tourism has an unpredictable effect on the identity of Amsterdam as a multicultural city.
10. The demise of printed books forces any expression of knowledge to choose its possible reception.