

BEAUTY THROUGHOUT THE AGES

Elisabeth Azoulay

“Where humanity exists, beauty exists!”

From time immemorial and everywhere in the world, human beings improve their appearance in order to transcend their natural, inherited, body. Beauty is this work on the human body; it is an action not a value judgment. The body is the main canvass of the quest for beauty and the appearance is a major medium of creating meanings and organizing life in society.

Despite the extreme variety of beauty practices and ideals, are there shared values and issues in the quest for beauty? We can consider beauty as a language, hence its universality. But beauty is also deeply linked to diversity. Different people speak different languages and the language of a particular people evolves through ages.

We are at the beginning of a new phase in the history of beauty. What if we succeed in conquering old age and death, in ever-expanding our bodies, in manufacturing humans? Will we still be human?”

