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## **The Meaning of Presence**

Modern scenic art is "taking place" in lots of different "places" - "place" usually means physical space of some continuity, with some history - but what is the meaning of "place" in this context ? what makes for instance a website "a place" ?

The term "presence", presupposes first of all a "place", but presupposes too the presence of someone or something else - and some kind of communication. So the website is made "a place" for presence and communication, through its ability to mirror the user and make her feel "noticed".

This communicative activity need not involve spoken or written words, it relies on the possibility to exchange activity, to "answer" on actions - in short, to establish changes between on one side being a subject and an object, and being made an object and taking subject status on the other.

In figurative art (pictures, sculpture, videofilm) the spectator has to establish a connection or a relation with the work of art on her own premises - the work itself is doing nothing but existing for the spectator, to look at, or to pass by.

What makes a work of art "scenic" is the establishment of a possibility of "a place" for presence, and the establishment of some "rules" guiding the activity - which might be called a contract of fiction.

The changing subject/object (outer)connections and (inner) relations can be seen as a characteristic as well as a means of expression in modern scenic art.

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