Untangling the Law & Ethics of Appropriation

Alex Watkins
Art & Architecture Librarian
University of Colorado Boulder
Andrea Blanch, Silk Sandals by Gucci

Jeff Koons, Niagara Falls
Art Rogers, Puppies

Jeff Koons, String of Puppies
Gillian Wearing, Signs that say what you want them to say and not signs that say what someone else wants you to say

Vaseline Ad, Sea of Skin
Spencer Turk photograph
Art Rogers, Puppies

Jeff Koons, String of Puppies
HOPE

Shepard Fairey

Mannie Garcia
Morton Beebe, Cliff Diver at Acapulco

Robert Rauschenberg, Pull
they think it's just a photograph
The reason there’s 
a legal issue here is because there’s a 
moral one
Stephen Oakes, National Geographic

Lisa Congdon
Cory Archangel, Super Mario Clouds  

Christian Marclay, The Clock
Web Artists Are Furious At Rihanna And Azealia Banks

Pop stars are getting called out by Tumblr artists, seapunks, and fashion mavens for stealing their style.

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BuzzFeed

Did Beyonce steal the idea for her Billboard Awards performance?

By ANDREA MAGRATH
UPDATED: 06:29 EST, 25 May 2011

Beyoncé's visually arresting Billboard Awards performance this week had the audience on their feet and her fellow celebrity artists in awe.

The singer performed her new single Run The World (Girls) in front of a backdrop of digital effects which were designed to coincide with Beyoncé's choreography.

But now the Grammy-winner has been accused of stealing the idea for her performance after a video of a performance last year by Italian pop star Lorella Cuccarini emerged.

© Youtube

Grander scale: Beyoncé's Billboard Awards performance of Run The World (Girls) bears a striking resemblance to Lorella Cuccarini's act from last year (right)
The ethnographic photograph is perhaps the paradigmatic appropriative object, born of an aggressive technology in contexts of political and cultural domination. Such photographs present a fixed point, literally, figurally, and metaphorically, of dispossession and appropriation. They render the bodies of the powerless through the intellectual and ideological categories of the powerful in relation to a series of dynamic axes-race, gender, subjugation, and their social classifications.

Elizabeth Edwards
Patrick Cariou, Yes Rasta

Richard Prince, Canal Zone
“Warhol had found the original photo in a women’s magazine; it had won second prize in a contest for the best snapshot taken by a housewife”

Rainer Crone

“Warhol was very innocent of doing a disservice to this photographer because this is not what you might call a ‘remarkable photograph.’ It was not an earthshaking photograph, but Warhol make a remarkable series of paintings out of it”

Ivan Karp
Thank You
Further Reading


