Camping with the Stars: Queer Perfomativity, Pop Intertextuality, and Camp in the Pop Art of Lady Gaga

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Abstract

The article is concerned with the possibility of employing countercultural and subversive strategies in U.S. mainstream media. The concept in question is camp, historically rooted in gay subculture, as performed by pop artist Lady Gaga. She is presented as challenging gender as well as aesthetic norms in her performances via the employment of camp—thus opening her public persona to queer readings.

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“Whether it’s pop camp, queer camp, high camp, or political camp—Trump is a very camp figure—I think it’s very timely.” While it may be difficult for guests to dress to theme on this one, having Styles and Gaga as co-chairs will provide some possibly needed encouragement. Lady Gaga, who’s currently riding high on her role in the acclaimed A Star Is Born remake as well as a Vogue cover on newsstands, has built a career out of high-concept art and camp. As for Styles, the former boy bander turned Gucci campaign star has taken up a transformation into a millennial David Bowie, embracing art and s...