



The theater and “beaux endroits”

On conventional aesthetic judgement

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Abstract: Seventeenth-century theatergoers were convinced that beauty was the stuff of “rules” and “principles” that should be followed in stage productions. The widespread use of the expression “*les beaux endroits*” (beautiful places) attests to this: certain scenes were meant to be “beautiful” in a tangible, objective way, and elicit an aesthetic consensus. This structured the entire reception process, which this article aims to reconstitute based on first-hand accounts of the time.

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