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Representations of transcendence in the work of Anselm Kiefer and Anish Kapoor

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ABSTRACT

In this research dissertation I argue that selected works of artists Anselm Kiefer (b.1945) and Anish Kapoor (b.1954) can best be understood as representations of transcendence. I begin by locating works selected for this research within the body of work each artist has produced. This is followed by the definition of my key terms: representation, transcendence and emptiness. An analysis of the relation between these terms forms the basis for my theoretical framework. I will then investigate the specific material and aesthetic qualities of the selected works, and work towards a metaphorical and conceptual understanding of the artworks with the aid of my theoretical framework. This is followed by an investigation of my own creative work. In the conclusion I consolidate my analysis of representations of transcendence and emptiness in the previous three chapters, which is followed by a recapitulation and consideration of my findings.