

From food in space to the space of food

Senses and spatial experience



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Introduction

Our experience of spatiality is mostly related to view and geometry. From Newton to nowadays, space is something like a flat, uniform, isometric surface on which different objects are positioned. In this perspective, also our experience of food and gastronomy is organized by this same geometric grid: we tend to imagine food as localized (for example local foods, or specialties) and we try to communicate our gastronomic experience using this idea of space.

My research question comes from the recognition of the fact that in our aesthetic experience of the world, and especially of space, there are other senses that are deeply involved, all of them. Smell, touch, hearing and taste are at least as much involved in our experience of spatiality as vision, even if the contemporary concept of space usually comes only from this last sense.

In the recent years there is a new interest in the relations between smell, touch, hear and space, in order to enrich and criticize the vision-centric idea of space, which tends to forget many qualities and riches of the world. Taste is the least studied, maybe because it functions only when we introduce something from external space in our internal mouth space. I'm searching which experience of space we have by the mean of taste, both in itself and in a deeply holistic relationship with the other senses. Food and gastronomy are privileged contest for this research, because they offer a various and multi-faced stimulation of all our senses, and especially taste

This research can be useful also to have a critical point of view on the risks of vision as the only way in which we relate to space, cancelling multiple aspects that can be crucial to develop a deeper connection with the world not only as an external set of things, but as something we can engage with as far as we are part of it, and so we can be engaged by it as well.



Inter-disciplines



Space and place

Exploring the history of the concepts of place and space is a necessary preliminary work to understand the opportunity offered by aesthetics to reshape our idea of spatiality.

Aesthetic space

What are the characteristics of our aesthetic perception of space? What are the attributes of space that we sense with our body, and especially with taste.

Future perspectives

Which are the enrichments that a wider and more sensual perception of space can give to our relationship with the world, and with food?