

Perceptions Denied: An Examination of the Gaze in *All That Fall*

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A specific way in which bodily and social anxieties are presented in Beckett's work is through the aspect of denied perception. Beckett's characters are often tensely suspended with the anxiety of occupying a negative space; it is both a continuous and contagious state of being. I will examine the ways in which the audience comes to occupy this negative space. My paper will also incorporate how Maddy Rooney of *All That Fall* and the 2016 PanPan production of the play at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin subvert theatrical norms; not only does Mrs Rooney resist any form of gaze or visual interrogation but the play itself also denies the audience's complete perception of it. Moreover, it is significant that the subject in question, Mrs Rooney, exists within an ongoing state of enervation and often her confrontations with her 'self' are, in a sense, self-destructive.

Short Bio:

Holly Furey is part of a group of Trinity College Dublin postgraduate students approaching Beckett from an Irish perspective.