Locating the Kitchen Sink

Intersections of Space and Class in 20th-Century British Cultural Production

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This talk outlines the way spatial analysis of cultural production assists in grappling with the dynamics of social class. Centering on the kitchen sink realism movement, I explore the way spatial formations and representations of the built environment function as genre motifs across media formats. I show how reading "kitchen sink" texts through a spatial lens grants further insight into the movement's intentions as well as insight into contemporary representations of class. Drawing on theorists such as Henri Lefebvre and Bertrand Westphal, this talk stresses the importance of close reading setting in narratives, emphasizing how such analysis helps us better comprehend the critical impact of texts from the time.

HMNSS 2212, Wednesday January 31, 3:30 – 5 PM.

John Bratby, *Still Life with Chip Frier*, 1954