

Artistic/Literary Spaces and Borders:

A Brief Introduction to the Monographic Issue n. 4

For the first time since the founding of *InScriptum. A Journal of Language and Literary Studies*, we are pleased to present a monographic issue about *Artistic/Literary Spaces and Borders* in modern and contemporary literature and arts. It is promoted by the CISAM - *Studi internazionali sulle avanguardie e sulla modernità*, the research center of the University of Bergamo, which focuses on the two themes of Avant-gardes and modernity in literature and arts in general. The issue includes contributions from both emerging researchers and renowned scholars for a total of eight articles from six different sections, as well as seven book reviews.

We understand the concepts of space and boundary from a broad perspective: while the former encompasses both physical and abstract places, the latter refers to geographical, generic, ideological, ontological, sexual, linguistic, canonical, literary, and artistic limits. As expected, many contributions address the themes of overcoming divisions and barriers, invalidating categorizations, and questioning inherited norms, whether in reference to the role of women, the rules imposed by grammar, or affiliation with an artistic or literary genre. Some articles explore the concept of intertextuality as conceived in Semiotics, which involves the evident or veiled presence of one text in another, whether intentional or unintentional. This intertextuality is seen as inevitable and can result in works being influenced or contaminated by one another. Equally essential are the reflections on the interactions between space and those who inhabit it or refer to it in their writings, between reality and fiction, life and death.

Specifically, within English literature and the international influence of the *Quixote*, Francesca Guidotti, from the University of Bergamo (Italy), analyzes the novel *The Female Quixote; or, The Adventures of Arabella* (1752) by Charlotte Lennox, focusing on its role in both raising and crossing borders, within the context of the eighteenth-century English cultural scene. Our Spanish Studies section offers two articles on poetry. Firstly, José María Balcells, from the University of León (Spain), explores the still unpublished poetic work *Amor de Láser*, written by Rafael Ballesteros in 2022, highlighting its deviation from linguistic norms and its avant-garde characteristics. Next, Francisco Javier Escobar Borrego, from the

University of Seville (Spain), studies Victoria Atencia's poetry related to the city of Malaga from the perspective of the influence of Jorge Guillén, Vicente Aleixandre and other writers. Fernanda Pavié Santana, from the University of Bergamo (Italy), reflects on the physical space recreated in the novel *Ruido* (2012) by the Chilean writer Álvaro Bisama, contributing to the field of Hispanic-American literature. For German Studies, Domenico Coppola, from the University of Calabria (Italy), analyzes the interaction between humans and natural space in the novel *Ein ganzes Leben* (2014), by Robert Seethaler. The article by Lia Pacini, from the University of Bergamo (Italy), delves into the boundaries between fantasy and reality within the context of Anglo-American literature. It focuses on Edgar Allan Poe's short story "Ligeia" (1838). Finally, we have two articles for French Studies. Marta Colleoni, from the University of Bergamo (Italy), explores the *Proses Lyriques* (1893) by Claude Debussy, in which he sets poems to music and blurs the line between the two arts, while Andrea Cornaggia, from the same university, studies the body as a boundary in the works of Alfred Jarry.

The different perspectives presented by the authors in the monograph reaffirm that the inherent rebellious spirit of art, particularly literature, leads to originality through the dismantling of barriers, the redefinition of boundaries and categories, the transcendence of limits, and the exploration of the spaces in between. The truly intriguing aspects reside in these interstices, a phenomenon that has persisted from modernity to the present day.

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