

MODERN AUSTRIAN LITERATURE

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Articles

TOMAS SOMMADOSSI

Eine vergessene Literaturverfilmung. Die Adaption von Stefan Zweigs

Novelle *Angst* durch Roberto Rossellini..... 1

This article examines Roberto Rossellini's almost forgotten cinematographic adaptation of Stefan Zweig's *Angst*. The plot focuses on a bourgeois female figure, Irene Wagner, who is being blackmailed by a woman who pretends to be the ex-fiancée of Irene's lover. Irene, who is afraid that the blackmailer might jeopardize her family life, does not know that it was her husband who arranged the blackmailing to punish her. While Zweig aims at representing the psychological effects of fear, Rossellini changes the setting (postwar Germany instead of imperial Vienna) and highlights the moral aspects of betrayal and revenge by emphasizing the fact that both Irene and her husband are guilty.

HANNI MITTELMANN

Remembrance as a *Vis*: Avigdor Dagan's Allegories of Destruction and

Restitution..... 25

This is an examination of the novels of the late Czech-Israeli writer Avigdor Dagan (Viktor Fischl) as veiled allegories of the disorientation the Holocaust inflicted on individuals and on humankind as a whole. Central to the novels is the narrative attempt to preserve the memory of a world violated and destroyed. However, the remembrances of the past with which Dagan's narrators ceaselessly occupy themselves do not function as a cult of the dead, but rather transubstantiate into life. Dagan's novels can be read as allegories of restitution that assert traditional patterns of meaning and human dignity; however, they also show the irreversible rupture of those patterns.

SARAH S. PAINITZ

Political Bodies: Physiognomy in Veza Canetti's Fiction 37

This essay explores the role of the body and physiognomy in the major prose

works of Veza Canetti. It argues that the physical features of her characters illustrate how human existence in the modern world has become marked by alienation, violence, and loss of communication. Engaging with the grotesque and with performance, Canetti demonstrates that physiognomy, despite its promise to provide stability and truth, only reinforces the disorientation and uncertainty of modern society.

Essay

VESNA KONDRIČ HORVAT

“Die Ränder brechen auf und sie brechen herein”: Ein interkultureller Blick auf Ilma Rakusa und Karl-Markus Gauß 55

The article deals with two language-aware and form-conscious artists who express a strong drive toward aesthetic expression but never forget their immersion in social and historical environments. Karl-Markus Gauß and Ilma Rakusa, who gained their reputations as very subtle mediators between different cultures mainly through their essays, open the subject of “otherness” for discussion and prove that this is not primarily a given, but develops during the process of “Begegnung” and/or “Versprachlichung.” The article shows that these authors developed a keen ear for the plurality not only of the historical but also of the contemporary world.

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