The Singularity of Literature

Derek Attridge



Routledge Classics

Singularity Of Literature

Jack Reynolds, Jonathan Roffe

Singularity Of Literature:

The Singularity of Literature Derek Attridge, 2017-04-07 The Iliad and Beowulf provide rich sources of historical information The novels of Henry Fielding and Henry James may be instructive in the art of moral living Some go further and argue that Emile Zola and Harriet Beecher Stowe played a part in ameliorating the lives of those existing in harsh circumstances However as Derek Attridge argues in this outstanding and acclaimed book none of these capacities is distinctive of literature What is the singularity of literature Do the terms literature and the literary refer to actual entities found in cultures at certain times or are they merely expressions characteristic of such cultures Attridge argues that this resistance to definition and reduction is not a dead end but a crucial starting point from which to explore anew the power and practices of Western art Derek Attridge provides a rich new vocabulary for literature rethinking such terms as invention singularity otherness alterity performance and form He returns literature to the realm of ethics and argues for the ethical importance of literature demonstrating how a new understanding of the literary might be put to work in a responsible creative mode of reading The Singularity of Literature is not only a major contribution to the theory of literature but also a celebration of the extraordinary pleasure of the literary for reader writer student or critic This Routledge Classics edition includes a new preface by the author **The Singularity of Literature** Derek Attridge, 2004 The Singularity of **Literature** Derek Attridge, 2004 This brilliant contribution to the theory of literature demonstrates how a new understanding of the literary might be applied in a responsible creative mode of reading The Work of Literature Derek Attridge, 2015-03-26 What is distinctive about the cultural practice called literature How does it benefit individuals and society How do literary works retain their importance and their capacity to give pleasure over decades and centuries What constitutes responsible criticism These are some of the questions addressed in this book which develops the arguments put forward in Derek Attridge's influential study The Singularity of Literature 2004 Beginning with an extended cross examination in the form of an interview addressing a range of topics relating to the work of literature understood both as the activity of the writer and as the text itself and the practices of literary reading and literary criticism it asks what it means to do justice to a work of literature provides a full account of the concept of singularity considers the problematic power of criticism and advances an account of the role of context in the writing and reading of literary works In other chapters it explores the issue of cultural difference in responses to literature discusses the working of metaphor questions the attribution of knowledge to literary works and addresses the topics of affect and hospitality The book follows through the consequences of regarding the singular and inventive work of literature as an event that takes place anew each time it is read providing an opening to an otherness excluded by prevailing cultural norms and habits of thought and feeling Although the focus of the book is on literature the arguments are relevant to all the arts and engage with the thought of major aesthetic theorists in a number of traditions Jacques Derrida: Live Theory James KA Smith, 2005-10-20 Jacques Derrida

Live Theory is a new introduction to the work of this most influential of contemporary philosophers It covers Derrida's corpus in its entirety from his earliest work in phenomenology and the philosophy of language to his most recent work in ethics politics and religion It investigates Derrida's contribution to and impact upon such disciplines as philosophy literary theory cultural studies aesthetics and theology Throughout the key concepts that underpin Derrida's thought are thoroughly examined in particular the notion of the Other or alterity is employed to indicate a fundamental continuity from Derrida's earliest to his latest work The text emphasizes the importance of understanding Derrida's philosophical heritage as the key to understanding the interdisciplinary impact of his project In the wake of Derrida's death the book includes an interview that interrogates the very notion of live theory as a way into the core themes of deconstruction Institutions of World Literature Stefan Helgesson, Pieter Vermeulen, 2015-06-19 This volume engages critically with the recent and ongoing consolidation of world literature as a paradigm of study On the basis of an extended active and ultimately more literary sense of what it means to institute world literature it views processes of institutionalization not as limitations but as challenges to understand how literature may simultaneously function as an enabling and exclusionary world of its own It starts from the observation that literature is never simply a given but is always performatively and materially instituted by translators publishers academies and academics critics and readers as well as authors themselves This volume therefore substantiates refines as well as interrogates current approaches to world literature such as those developed by David Damrosch Pascale Casanova and Emily Apter Sections focus on the poetics of writers themselves market dynamics postcolonial negotiations of discrete archives of literature and translation engaging a range of related disciplines The chapters contribute to a fresh understanding of how singular literary works become inserted in transnational systems and conversely how transnational and institutional dimensions of literature are inflected in literary works Focusing its methodological and theoretical inquiries on a broad archive of texts spanning the triangle Europe Latin America Africa the volume unsettles North America as the self evident vantage of recent world literature debates Because of the volume s focus on dialogues between world literature and fields such as postcolonial studies translation studies book history and transnational studies it will be of interest to scholars and students in a range of areas Understanding Derrida Jack Reynolds, Jonathan Roffe, 2004-06-15 Jacques Derrida continues to be the world's single most influential philosophical and literary theorist. He is also one of the most controversial and most complex His own works and critical studies of his work proliferate but where can a student utterly new to the work of Derrida start Understanding Derrida is written as an introduction to the full range of Derrida s key ideas and influences It brings together the world's leading authorities on Derrida each writing a short accessible essay on one central aspect of his work Framed by a clear introduction and a complete bibliography of Derrida's publications in English the essays systematically analyze one aspect of Derrida's work each essay including a quick summary of Derrida's books which have addressed this theme guiding the student towards a direct engagement with Derrida's texts The essays cover language

metaphysics the subject politics ethics the decision translation religion psychoanalysis literature art and Derrida's seminal relationship to other philosophers namely Husserl Heidegger Levinas Hegel and Nietzsche A New Philosophy of Discourse Joshua Kates, 2020-11-12 What would happen if structures forms and other stand alone entities thought to comprise our intellectual toolkit words meanings signs were jettisoned How would a work written in a purportedly dead language like The Iliad or penned in a foreign tongue be approached if deemed legible without structures such as meaning bearing signs or grammatical rules A New Philosophy of Discourse charts a novel course in response to these questions coining an original concept of discourse or talk that Joshua Kates presents as more fundamental than language In Kates conception of discourse writing and speech take shape entirely as events situated within histories contexts and traditions themselves always in the making Combining literary theory literary criticism and philosophy to reveal a new perspective on discourse Kates focuses on literary criticism literary texts by Charles Bernstein and Stanley Elkin and the philosophical writings of Stanley Cavell Hans Georg Gadamer Donald Davidson and Martin Heidegger This ground breaking study bridges the analytical continental divide by working through concrete problems using novel and extended interpretations with wide ranging implications for the humanities **Ethical Sense and Literary Significance** Donald R. Wehrs, 2023-07-31 This study blends together ethical philosophy neurocognitive evolutionary studies and literary theory to explore how imaginative discourse addresses a distinctively human deep sociality and by doing so helps shape cultural and literary history Deep sociality arising from an improbable evolutionary history both entwines and leaves non reconciled what is felt to be significant for us and what ethical sense seems to call us to acknowledge as significant independent of ourselves Ethical Sense and Literary Significance connects literary and cultural history without reducing the literary to a mere expression of something else It argues that affective differences between non egocentric and egocentric registers of significance are integral to the bioculturally evolved deep sociality that verbal art addresses often in unsettling and socially critical ways Much imaginative discourse in early societies as well as recent ones brings ethical sense and literary significance together in ways that reveal their intricate but non harmonized internal entwinement Drawing on contemporary scholarship in the humanities and sciences Donald R Wehrs explores the implications of interdisciplinary approaches to topics central to a wide range of fields beyond literary studies including neuroscience anthropology phenomenological philosophy comparative history and social psychology Singularity and Transnational Poetics Birgit Mara Kaiser, 2014-12-05 Over the past decade singularity has been a prominent term in a broad range of fields ranging from philosophy to literary and cultural studies to science and technology studies This volume intervenes in this broad discussion of singularity and its various implications proposing to explore the term for its specific potential in the study of literature Singularity and Transnational Poetics brings together scholars working in the fields of literary and cultural studies translation studies and transnational literatures The volume s central concern is to explore singularity as a conceptual tool for the comparative study of contemporary literatures

beyond national frameworks and by implication as a tool to analyze human existence Contributors explore how singularity might move our conceptions of cultural identity from prevailing frameworks of self other toward the premises of being as singular plural Through a close reading of transnational literatures from Ireland Germany the Netherlands France and South Africa this collection offers a new approach to reading literature that will challenge a reader s established notions of identity individuality communicability and social cohesion

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Singularity Of Literature Introduction

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