

# The magic of landscape

## Polish lyrical poetry and landscape art from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century

### Summary

This book deals with 19th- and 20th-century Polish poetry and painting, with the author's central focus on landscapes. It is an interdisciplinary publication, bringing together the history of literature and the history of art. The author uses the categories of external (impressionism) and internal landscape (expressionism, surrealism), 'the landscape of memory', and also the open space-closed space dichotomy.

The author interprets the output of Poland's leading poets from the Romantic, Young Poland and inter-war periods in terms of landscape: Adam Mickiewicz, Teofil Lenartowicz, Kazimierz Przerwa-Tetmajer, Jan Kasprówic, Tadeusz Miciński, Leopold Staff, Julian Tuwim, Jan Lechoń, Jarosław Iwaszkiewicz, Emil Zegadłowicz and Józef Czechowicz. It also introduces other contexts – aesthetic and philosophical.

Separate chapters are devoted to impressionism and surrealism, in which these movements, their origins and recent manifestations are described. Reference is made to Arnold Böcklin's *Isle of the Dead*, and also paintings and poetic works related to him. The problem of ekphrasis is also discussed, as is the creative output of such artists as Stanisław Wyspiański, Wojciech Weiss, Witold Pruszkowski, Władysław Podkowiński and Józef Pankiewicz. The author creates a synthesis of Young-Polish landscapes and a typology of Romantic paintings, putting forward the bold thesis that abstractionism derives from landscape. He presents the artists' creative work in different contexts – multimedia and modernist movements – and also seeks to highlight the originality and exceptional nature of the artists in question. The chapter on surrealism initiates analysis from the semiotic angle.

This book should satisfy literary historians and art historians alike. Primarily an interpretative work, it is written in accessible academic language, and would be suitable for use in teaching. It is intended for researchers, teachers, students and anybody interested in poetry and painting.

*Translated by Rob Pagett*