
Practising Mindfulness

The everyday as modern poetic experience

Summary

The book *Practising Mindfulness. The everyday as modern poetic experience* addresses the twentieth century practices of reflecting on everyday life in lyrical poems. The author of the thesis indicates the necessity of describing the phenomenon which developed simultaneously in poetry as well as philosophy, sociology and anthropology, emphasizing that poets not once anticipated theorists in diagnosing modernity. In his deliberations, Marcin Telicki concentrates on four aspects that he considers essential to understanding the connections between modern poetry and the everyday: transience, performativity, concreteness and aversion to pathos.

Findings on the peculiar “genealogy of the everyday” involve a critical analysis of Martin Heidegger’s and Walter Benjamin’s concepts, as well as an overview of theses present in the discussion of the avant-garde and the reconstruction of the term “bathos”.

Conclusions arrived at by researchers, thinkers and practicing artists provide a context for history of literature recognitions and a lead-in to the interpretation of specific poems. The author first analyses the criticism against the Skamander group expressed by the representatives of “Okolica Poetów” [TN: a literary magazine published between 1935-1939 in Poland] (mainly by Stanisław Czernik) and then presents the poetic program of Julian Tuwim. These deliberations lead to questions about the “poetics of the everyday” unfolding in the interwar period.

The next section of the thesis compares the works of Konstanty Ildefons Gałczyński and Miron Białoszewski. Despite many differences between these poets (generational experience, diverse tempers, writing techniques), one can indicate essential similarities in their creation of poetic image of the everyday which have not been sufficiently discussed so far. The author points above all to the category of “lyrical performance” as a new interpretative perspective.

The section dedicated to “everyday things” discusses the works of poets who referenced different literary traditions and used a variety of stylistic devices: Tadeusz Różewicz, Wisława Szymborska and Julia Hartwig. The author portrays changes in literary consciousness that are influenced by everyday life.

The last interpretative part has been dedicated to poetic allusions to Zbigniew Herbert’s poem “The Envoy of Mr. Cogito”. The discussed references include the po-

ems by Jan Polkowski, Marcin Świetlicki, Jaś Kapela, Piotr Czerski, Tadeusz Różewicz and Darek Foks.

While summarizing his deliberations on the way thinking about the everyday altered in the 20th century, the author poses questions about the effects of these alterations. Indicating the presence of this category in poetry, literary criticism and human sciences, he reflects on possible directions of development from the perspective of artistic expression and research.