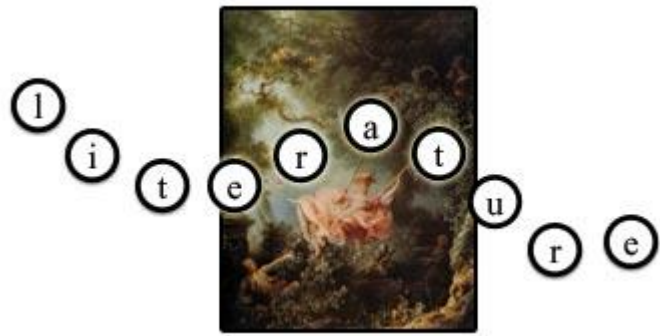


Summary: Literature on the Move

The experience of living after history, in a posthistoire, seems to repeat itself in modern Europe and North America with a certain regularity. There are a number of clues that we have overcome the most recent recurrence of the sensation of living in a post-history. Besides the unmixed phenomenon of multiculturalism and the intercultural phenomenon of mixing, we now have a transcultural phenomenon in which the different cultures penetrate and alter each other. Constant, discrete habitats and residences of cultures belong in their majority to the past.

The point of departure for a bordercrossing literature on the move will be constituted by travel literature, from which the view shall be opened up onto other spaces, dimensions and patterns of movement, which will shape the literatures of the 21st Century. And these will become – one needs no prophetic gift to see – for a major part literatures with no fixed abode.



This book has been written against the background of this new situation and in expectation of a fresh evaluation of cultural aims, which have to be shaped by a structure of space that has been fundamentally changed in territorial and non-territorial respects. It embraces, therefore, in the chronological sense the time/space of modernity and postmodernity between the second half of the 18th and the end of the 20th Century. At the same time it interrogates literature regarding the evolution of spatial concepts, which – often also in dialogue with other media, particularly the visual arts – were meaningful for the last quarter of the second millennium and that emerge above an aesthetic and a »spatiality« of the modern.



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From the surfacing of America to the disappearing of Europe

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