

Anna Branczeiz

## Translatability of Aura

The Essay of Walter Benjamin on Translation,  
and the Practice of Translation

By reflecting on some crucial terms (essential quality, inessential message, aura, reproduction, reproducible matter etc.), this study aims to draw a few parallels between two essays of Walter Benjamin titled *The Task of the Translator* and *The Work of Art in the Age of Its Technological Reproducibility*. Above all, it argues that in the light of Benjamin other texts the philosopher's remarks on translation and translatability can be read within a frame of linguistic-philosophical issues rather than a guide to the practice of translation. This work also illustrates the comparison by analysing and translating an excerpt from the poem titled *Geheimes Deutschland* (*Secret Germany*) of Stefan George.

**Keywords:** aura, translation as reproduction, theory of translation, translatability, Stefan George

Petra Egri

## Understanding Fashion through Walter Benjamin's Concept

Walter Benjamin's idea about fashion and modernity has had a profound effect on fashion theory in conceptualizing the relationship between fashion, modernity and in the temporal existence of the city. Benjamin, in his late manuscript, with the published title of *The Arcade Project*, discussed the social and cultural aspects in fashion in the context of nineteenth-century capitalism through understanding modernity as a process of constant renewal. My paper's focus is on fashion theorist (Barbara Vinken, Vicki Karaminas, Adam Geczy) using Benjamin's ideas on fashion's special position in modernity, on characteristic production and reproduction of social structures. Fashion is analysed as special art of the moment, an

example of temporality and as a special phantasy-production of modern capitalism.

**Keywords:** understanding fashion, fashion theory, modernity, capitalism, The Arcades Project

Nikolett Anna Németh

**The Fetishization of Music and the Speechless Individual  
Due to the Mechanical Reproduction of the Artwork**

In this paper, I examine the historical change of the artwork and our perception or reception, reading T. W. Adorno's "On the Fetish-Character in Music and the Regression of Listening" and W. Benjamin's Artwork essay. Comparing these two theories, I engage with the social and political relations of mass culture, as well as its affect on the individuals. How do the agency, the ability to concentrate and the social skills of the individual changes in the shadow of commercialization?

**Keywords:** reception theory, massification, the historical transformation of perception, the relation between mass culture and dictatorship, entertainment and lightheadedness, losing the voice

Bence Gábor Kvéder

**Voices of Wonderland, Wonders of Voice Land:  
*The Cold Heart* as Wilhelm Hauff's Tale  
and as Walter Benjamin and Ernst Shoen's Radio Play**

The central aim of my essay is to analyse the way in which the radio play *The Cold Heart*, written by Walter Benjamin and Ernst Schoen, connects themes like early nineteenth-century German bourgeois values represented, among others, by Wilhelm Hauff—and also by his tale of the same name—, the "schooling" intentions of dramatic literature in the first half of the twentieth century, as well as the system of relations based on storytelling and listening.

**Keywords:** tale, childhood, bourgeois values, radio play, "schooling" intentions

Kitti Wölfinger  
**Heartbeat, Rainstorm**  
 Plays of András Visky

András Visky and their family were deported to the Bărăgan. This experience defined his oeuvre. In his life in the beginning was the persecution. In his point of view there was similar to the exile: the literature is equivalent to the evangelion.

The essay analyzes two of his plays, *Disciples* (2001) and *Backborn* (2009) to examine how are these texts functional as possibility of freedom in addition to examine what does presence mean in the theater.

**Keywords:** persecution, *Disciples*, *Backborn*, freedom

Ferenc Hörcher  
**A Brief Enchantment: The Role of Conversation and Poetry  
 in Human Life**

This essay reconstructs two concepts of Michael Oakeshott's philosophy of human nature: his concepts of conversation and poetry, with the help of two essays written by him in rather different phases of his life. Conversation is interpreted here to belong to the ancient Roman, Ciceronian republican tradition, taken over and translated into the modern idiom, among others, by Castiglione, Shaftesbury and Addison. On the other hand, while poetry is partly understood along the Aristotelian lines, it has got a very well defined Platonic and late Romantic overtone for Oakeshott, connecting poetry to contemplation and delight. Finally, the concepts of friendship, love, play and childhood are also regarded as Oakeshott's metaphors for what he takes as practical poetry.

**Keywords:** Oakeshott, conversation, poetry, civilisation, politeness, childhood, conservatism

M. Attila Demeter  
**How to Think about Politics?**  
 Hannah Arendt on Kant's "political philosophy"

The paper tries to describe the mechanism and functioning of political thinking. In order to do so, it turns back to some of Hannah Arendt's thoughts dedicated to Kant's political philosophy. Arendt's conviction was that in Kant there are two very different political philosophies: the one that is generally accepted as such in the Critique of Practical Reason, and the other in the Critique of Judgment. Arendt believed that in all his political writings the theme of judgment, and especially that of reflective judgment, carried more weight for Kant than did that of practical reason. She also believed that this faculty of judging the individual or singular in absence of a general concept, a faculty which for Kant carried primarily an esthetic relevance, could be an adequate description of the mechanism of political thinking. Her main argument for this later conviction was that this faculty of reflective judgment, as Kant describes it, is a predicate of imagination, and is most intimately related to that "enlarged mentality", which for Arendt was the political way of thinking par excellence. The enlarged mentality or "representative thinking", as Arendt sometimes calls it, is the par excellence political way of thinking, because through it we have the possibility to think in position of everyone else and, as a consequence, to judge the single political events from very different angles. In this way, we become able to see and judge these events in their singularity or uniqueness, which is the ultimate task of political thinking.

**Keywords:** reflective judgment, enlarged mentality, representative thinking, Hannah Arendt, Immanuel Kant

Izabella Györgyjakab  
**"qui est l'«art» qui signe SH?"**  
 About art, in the "painter's" language,  
 on the basis of Simon Hantai's writings from the 50's

The reflections of Simon Hantai regarding art formulated during the 50s are written or partially written documents, which attempt to renew surrealism, at the same time perform its internal criticism and

indicate the artist's distancing from surrealism. By analyzing two of these writings, I highlight the problematic relationship between art and aesthetics, while I also attempt to reveal the process which, as a result of the intertwinement between the dimensions of art and aesthetics, and of the preservation of their dissonance, shapes both the language of art and the discourse on art, as the form of embedding art into the social and cultural public discourse.

**Keywords:** Simon Hantai, surrealism, art, aesthetics, language of art

