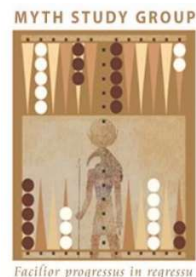




1 Decembrie 1918 University
of Alba Iulia



Centre for the research of the imaginary
SPECULUM
1 Decembrie 1918 University of Alba Iulia



University of South
Africa

invite papers
for the conference on

Magical Realism in Literature

Venue: Virtual or 1 Decembrie 1918 University, Alba Iulia

Date: June 13th -15th 2024

The term magical realism was coined around 1924 or 1925 by a German art critic named Franz Roh. What he called magical realism was simply a painting where real forms are combined in a way that does not conform to daily reality, an expressionist painting in fact. If surrealism pursued the magic, one would have to say that it very rarely looked for it in reality. The magical real, that is another way of perceiving reality, is encountered in its raw state, latent and omnipresent, in all that is Latin American. Here the strange is and always was commonplace. (Alejo Carpentier, *The Baroque and the Marvelous Real. Magical Realism*. Ed. Zamora and Faris, p. 102-104).

In magical realism we look at the world, this same world, with new eyes. We are offered a new style that is thoroughly of this world that celebrates the mundane. This new world of objects is still alien to the current idea of realism. It employs various techniques that endow all things with a deeper meaning and reveal mysteries that always threaten the secure tranquility of simple and ingenuous things. This art offers a calm admiration of the magic of being, of the discovery that things already have their own faces. This means that the ground in which the most diverse ideas in the world can take root has been reconquered in new ways. For the new art it is a question of representing before our eyes, in an intuitive

way, the fact, the interior figure, of the exterior world. (Franz Roh, *Magic Realism: Post-Expressionism* (1925). *Magical Realism*. Ed. L. P. Zamora and W. B. Faris. Durham: Duke UP, 1995. p. 15-32)

In magical realism we find the transformation of the common and the everyday into the awesome and the unreal. It is predominantly an art of surprises. Time exists in a kind of timeless fluidity and the unreal happens as part of reality. Once the reader accepts the *fait accompli*, the rest follows with logical precision (Angel Flores, *Magical Realism in Spanish American Fiction*. *Magical Realism*. Ed. Zamora and Faris, p. 113-116).

Magical realism is, more than anything else, an attitude toward reality that can be expressed in popular or cultured forms, in elaborate or rustic styles in closed or open structures. In magical realism the writer confronts reality and tries to untangle it, to discover what is mysterious in things, in life, in human acts. The principal thing is not the creation of imaginary beings or worlds but the discovery of the mysterious relationship between man and his circumstances. In magical realism key events have no logical or psychological explanation. The magical realist does not try to copy the surrounding reality or to wound it, but to seize the mystery that breathes behind things. (Luis Leal, *Magical Realism in Spanish American Literature*. *Magical Realism*. Ed. Zamora and Faris, p. 119-123).

In a more or less conscious way, magical realism is present in tales, in numerous expressionist creations, and some of the most representative authors of this genre are Gabriel Garcia Márquez, Jorge Luis Borges, Haruki Murakami, Olga Tokarczuk, Angela Carter, Salman Rushdie, Toni Morrison, Mo Yan, Aimee Bender, Edward Swift, Eowyn Ivey, Neil Gaiman, Leslye Walton, Chloe Benjamin, etc.

Your papers can focus on one of the following topics:

The society mirrored in magical realism

Tales as an expression of magical realism

On text-building in magical realism

Magical realism in Latin-American literature

Magical realism and the therapeutic novel

On time and space in magical realism

Magical realism between literature and art

GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS

Those interested in presenting a paper (not more than 25 minutes in length) are requested to submit the title together with an abstract **in English** of not more than 300 words, accompanied by at least 5 keywords, via e-mail before **April 15st, 2024**. You will receive confirmation of participation via e-mail by **May 15st, 2024**. Prior to their publication, papers, written either in English, French or Romanian will be reviewed by the editorial

committee. After selection, the papers will be published in *Incursiuni în imaginar*, the Speculum's Center review, Alba Iulia, Romania (Erih+, EBSCO, MLA, CEEOL, Cosmos).

Send abstracts for the papers by e-mail to:

Maria Mureșan: elimuresan@gmail.com

Rodica Gabriela Chira: rogabchira@yahoo.fr

Organizing committee:

Gabriela CHICIUDEAN, Maria MUREȘAN, Lucian Vasile BĂGIU, Cristina Matilda VĂNOAGĂ, Diana AVRAM, Rodica Gabriela CHIRA, Simona BUZAȘI (1 Decembrie 1918 University, Romania); Sibusiso H. MADONDO (Universitatea din Africa de Sud)

Scientific Committee:

Prof. Philippe WALTER (Universitatea Stendhal, Grenoble III, Franța)

Prof. Corin BRAGA (Universitatea Babeș-Bolyai, Cluj-Napoca, România)

Prof. Ruxandra CESEREANU (Universitatea Babeș-Bolyai, Cluj-Napoca, România)

Prof. Anna CAIOZZO (Universitatea Paris-Diderot - Paris 7, Franța)

Prof. Sibusiso H. MADONDO (Universitatea din Africa de Sud)

Prof. Madeea AXINCIUC (Universitatea din București, România)

Prof. Felix NICOLAU (Universitatea Complutense Madrid, Spania)

Prof. Virginia POPOVICI (Universitatea din Novisad, Serbia)

Prof. Dragoș VARGA (Universitatea Lucian Blaga din Sibiu)

Prof. Doina BUTIURCĂ, (Universitatea de Medicină, Farmacie, Științe și Tehnologie George Emil Palade, Târgu-Mureș, România)

Dr. Rodica Gabriela CHIRA (Universitatea 1 Decembrie 1918 din Alba Iulia, România)

Dr. Luminița CHIOREAN (Universitatea de Medicină, Farmacie, Științe și Tehnologie George Emil Palade, Târgu-Mureș, România)

Dr. Corina BOZEDEAN (Universitatea de Medicină, Farmacie, Științe și Tehnologie George Emil Palade, Târgu-Mureș, România)

Dr. Valerica SPORIȘ (Universitatea Lucian Blaga din Sibiu)

Dr. Rodica GRIGORE (Universitatea Lucian Blaga din Sibiu)

Dr. Crina HERȚEG (Universitatea 1 Decembrie 1918 din Alba Iulia, România)

Dr. Coralia TELEA (Universitatea 1 Decembrie 1918 din Alba Iulia, România)

Dr. Petru Ștefan IONESCU (Universitatea 1 Decembrie 1918 din Alba Iulia, România)

Dr. Gabriel BĂRBULEȚ (Universitatea 1 Decembrie 1918 din Alba Iulia, România)

Dr. Oana Andreea SÂMBRIAN (Institutul de Cercetări Socio-Umane, Craiova, România)

Dr. Dana SALA (Universitatea din Oadea)

Dr. Delia Maria RADU (Universitatea din Oradea)

Dr. Silviu MIHĂILĂ (Academia de Studii Economice din București)

Contact person:

Maria MUREȘAN: elimuresan@gmail.com