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The Anti-Representational Response
Gertrude Stein's Lucy Church Amiably

Doctoral dissertation to be publicly examined in Hörsal 1, HSC, Kyrkogårdsgatan 10, Uppsala, on Saturday 5th October, 1985, at 10 a.m., for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

Abstract

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This study considers Gertrude Stein's Lucy Church Amiably through certain semantic and linguistic aspects of feminist, schizophasic, and avant-garde discourse taken from Marxist and post-structuralist literary criticism. It attempts to place Stein's use of language and landscape within the context of the refusal of the Phallic signifier, of phallogocentric discourse, and of the limitation of the metaphor in the rejection of traditional narrative representation, and demonstrates how events in her life and her response to the period in which she lived conspired to a negation through language of the text as a means to representation. It translates through these readings the anthropomorphic relationship between Gertrude Stein as narrator and the fictional character, Lucy Church/the church-in-Lucey, who is both woman and church, as a metaphor for Gertrude Stein herself.

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