



A Companion to Spanish Surrealism (Monografías A)

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'I, Salvador Dalí, come from Spain, which is the most irrational and most mystical country in the world.' Dalí's implicit suggestion that Spaniards make good surrealists is fully borne out by Robert Havard's Companion. Chapters consider major figures such as García Lorca, Salvador Dalí, Luis Buñuel, Rafael Alberti, Vicente Aleixandre, Luis Cernuda, Joan Miró and Gómez de la Serna; other less mainstream figures are gathered into surveys of work in particular genres. The intention is to represent the broad evolution of Surrealism, from the early Freudian preoccupation with the unconscious to the Hegelian metaphysics of 'the surrealist object', and finally to the politics of Marxist materialism. The introduction focuses on salient features of Surrealism in Spain, and considers the value of its contribution both in terms of its adherence to French theory and as a distinctive cultural phenomenon. Contributors/contribuyen: DAWN ADES, ANDREW ANDERSON, GWYNNE EDWARDS, HAIM FINKELSTEIN, BOB GURNEY, DEREK HARRIS, ROBERT HAVARD, ALAN HOYLE, PATRICIA McDERMOTT, MARIA T. PAO, JACQUELINE RATTRAY, JAMES VALENDER, JASON WILSON 'Yo, Salvador Dalí, soy de España, el país más irracional y más místico del mundo'. Bien pudiera haber añadido Dalí que los españoles son surrealistas por naturaleza, lo cual se expresa de forma preclara en este Companion editado por Robert Havard. Los capítulos comentan las figuras de mayor trascendencia del surrealismo español, como García Lorca, Luis Buñuel, Rafael Alberti, Vicente Aleixandre, Luis Cernuda, Joan Miró, Gómez de la Serna y el mismo Dalí. Otros de menor alcance se agrupan en estudios específicos según los géneros. El énfasis recae siempre sobre lo que es distintivo y original en el pensamiento o en la técnica del autor dado, y siempre con el propósito de representar la evolución más amplia del Surrealismo en España: desde la temprana preocupación freudiana con el inconsciente, pasando por la metafísica hegeliana del 'objeto surrealista', hasta llegar a la política marxista del materialismo. La introducción hace hincapié en los rasgos más destacados del Surrealismo en España y trata de evaluar su contribución tanto en lo que respecta a su adhesión a las teorías francesas como, asimismo, en el sentido de tratarse de, o ser juzgado como, un fenómeno cultural distinto en sus propios términos.

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Review

Another fine volume for the Tamesis 'Monografías' series. Although aimed at an academic audience, these essays will also engage the general reader with a knowledge of and interest in Spanish Surrealist art in all its forms. --British Bulletin of Publications

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