



MYTHS IN CRISIS

The Crisis of Myth

Edited by

José Manuel Losada and Antonella Lipscomb

Myths in Crisis:

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ACEFALIA E INDIFERENCIACIÓN EN LA ÉPOCA DE LOS SURREALISMOS

JAVIER MAÑERO RODICIO

Resumen

En las revistas del surrealismo histórico y de sus disidencias, hallamos abundantes textos e imágenes con la cabeza, o bien su ausencia, por protagonista. Se trata de reivindicaciones extremas de lo instintivo y lo extático, que configuraron una mítica de acefalia e indiferenciación. Entre 1924 y 1939 asistimos a muchas manifestaciones de tal pulsión de acefalia hasta su cristalización en el mito de *Acéphale*: un mito trágico de los años 30.

Palabras clave

Acefalia, mito, surrealismo, antropología, religión.

Title

Acephalia and undifferentiation at the time of the surrealisms.

Abstract

At the journals of historical surrealism and their dissidences, we find plenty of texts and pictures where the head, or his absence, is the protagonist. This fact is related with a extreme claim of the instinctive and the ecstatic that shaped a myth of acephalia and undifferentiation. Between 1924 and 1939, we witnessed many manifestations of this acephalic pulsion until its crystallization in the *Acéphale* myth: a tragic myth of the '30s.

Keywords

Acephalia, myth, surrealism, anthropology, religion.

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This trilingual volume examines the extent to which myths are affected by the crises of the 20th and 21st centuries. It brings together four theoretical studies which analyse both the crisis of structure – implying the distortion or disappearance of myth – and the crisis of concepts and terminology that currently threaten the study of mythology.

The largest section of the volume focuses on the crises that have affected ancient, medieval and modern literary myths from a global perspective, taking into account psychology, ethics, politics and contemporary meta-literature. The final section examines the crisis experienced by those myths which permeate the material world, investigating historical and fictitious characters, mythologized places, and languages.

The volume is a remarkable collection of 30 texts that were selected from 300 proposals by prestigious researchers from over 30 countries during the 3rd International Conference of Myth Criticism held in Madrid in October 2014.

José Manuel Losada studied at the Sorbonne, Harvard, Montreal and Oxford universities. He is Professor of French and Comparative Literature at Complutense University, Madrid. Among his books, the *Bibliography of the Myth of Don Juan* (1997) and *Victor Hugo et l'Espagne* (2014) have been highly acclaimed. *Mito y mundo contemporáneo* received the 2011 Giovi International Research Award. He is Editor of *Amaltea: Journal of Myth Criticism*, and President of Asteria: International Association of Myth Criticism.

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