

Online Proceedings

POSTER SESSION 3

2:30 PM to 4:00 PM

Formal Mimicry as Literary Genre Art: Signs of Performative Authorship in Darko Vukovic's ???Closings??? and Katarina Grgic's ???Early April???

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This thesis examines how motifs of concentric self-consciousness in Darko Vukovic's "Closings" and Katarina Grgic's "Early April" convey a sense of illegitimately performed identity in post WWII Serbo-Croatian diaspora literature. Vukovic and Grgic (contemporaries) were recognized as stylists of English prose, but both chose to publish only serialized works in small Croatian publications. Each author's fiction also includes characters who appear to be mirrors of the authors themselves. Though they beg to be asked, few critics have raised the questions: why did neither Vukovic nor Grgic seek a broader audience for their work? and: what is meant by the author-dopplegangers lurking within their fiction? Through an examination of "Closings" and "Early April," in addition to personal letters written between the two authors and reader responses from the time period, this thesis explores the way Vukovic and Grgic's treatment of formal constraints and narrative expectations express not just a post-modern discomfort with didacticism, but a very relatable insecurity with projecting self that was itself a consequence of the horrors of the 1940s... and that this experience was not limited to people creating literature, but was in fact a cornerstone of Serbo-Croatian identity in the years directly following the second world war.