

The Ironic fantasy

The French short story between 1880 and 1939 knew a hybrid form of the supernatural that Alphonse Allais, Guillaume Apollinaire and Maurice Renard practiced and which can be called : the ironic fantasy.

Contrary to the traditional fantastic mode, the ironic fantasy does not aim at provoking fear of the reader. It takes especially care to involve the reader in a game which urges him to revalue a number of rules : artistic, religious, social, physical, technical, etc. Reading the ironic fantasy becomes so playful and interactive.

Apollinaire demythologized the religious miracles to cleanse them of the fanaticism and the heresy, Renard especially denounced the scientism and Allais used the humor to attack subjects as the reincarnation, the borders between literary forms even between different arts.

The prodigies of the photography : “the invention of the century”, influenced the late XIXth century’s imagination. This new imagination contributed to the evolution of the supernatural fantasy and defined new borders to avoid its hardening.

Rania ALY, *The Ironic fantasy*, Paris, Les Editions du Net, 2015.