EDITORIAL

Literature and the Social World: Aesthetics and Cultural Politics

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Though contributors to this volume tackle a diverse scope of cultural production both in time and geography including eighteenth-century Augustan poetry, early twentieth-century expressionist aesthetics, prison literature and collective memory, autofiction (takhiel dati) and Arabic literature, the subversive functions of stage play, the aesthetics of medieval Moroccan ballads (melhoun), the representation of the body in modern theater or the politics of manducation scenes in literary works, they all engage with the intertwined relationship between literature and the social world. Whether through an interface between science and poetic art, narrative and state violence, aesthetics and politics or representation and social behavior, the contributions in this volume make a strong case for the dialectical relationship between the institution of literature and the social world and between literary aesthetics and life experiences. Through a multidisciplinary approach, the authors foreground the thin border lines between literary genres and the hybrid and intertextual nature of cultural production. The volume also includes an essay on the politics of race and nation in post-war France and in particular how it relates to media representations of Maghrebi immigration to France.