

Call for papers

POETRY/TRANSLATION/FILM – POÉSIE/TRADUCTION/FILM

PoeTransFi

18-19 June 2015

EMMA, Paul Valéry University, Montpellier, France

The aim of this conference, which could also be entitled “The film as poem, the poem as film: A spectrum of translations”, is to revisit the inter-relations between poetry and film, envisaged under the angle of translation, in a broad sense of the term. We would like to pay special attention to questions of rhythm and montage, starting from the work of film directors and film editors who wrote about the topic in recent years, particularly Andrei Tarkovsky and Walter Murch.

In his theorization of montage Eisenstein repeatedly referred to poetry in order to explain to his readers the syntax of film which was, then, a new medium. But 20th century poets also insisted on the relation between the two art forms. In other words, the attraction was mutual, indicating natural common ground. However, two apparently opposed directions emerged. While one of them privileges the Modernist dissonance and disruption (as in Godard), the other concerns itself with what Horton, in a monograph dedicated to the work of Greek director Theodoros Angelopoulos, called a cinema of contemplation. In such films the synergy of text, image and sound expresses that which cannot be said or shown. Indeed, in his 1984 essay “The Poetry Film”, Wees notes that certain film makers achieve a synthesis, rich in associations, connotations and metaphors, that neither the verbal nor the visual text could produce on its own. Tom Konyves’ and Fanny Howe’s videopoems are an example of this.

The link between poetry and film through translation is, largely, metaphorical; the three fields rarely coincide in their literal dimension. Consequently, one of the objectives of the conference will be to reflect on hybrid genres (ranging from the Modernist poem to recent filmic or poetic writing, without forgetting poem films and film poems), and to theorize as forms of translation the links, transpositions, transformations and passages between film and poetry and from poetry to film. But it will also be important to examine translation proper (subtitling, dubbing, voice-over, audio description, subtitling for the hard of hearing and the deaf) in films identified as poetic.

We invite proposals on:

- Film syntax and poetry syntax as translations of the dream work
- Verbal rhythm and film rhythm: mutual translations
- The translation of film into poetry and of poetry into film: what is a poetic film?
- Silence as translation
- The poetry of subtitles
- Poetry, dubbing, translation
- Audio description and visual poetry
- The translation of poetry as montage

- The (non)translation of poems and songs in films
- Other topics relevant to the subject of the conference

Please send 400-500 word abstracts in English or French accompanied by a brief bio-note (100 words) to adriana.serban@univ-montp3.fr and vincent.dussol@univ-montp3.fr before 21 November 2014. Notification of acceptance by 23 January 2015.

A selection of papers will be published after the conference at the Presses Universitaires du Septentrion, in the Arts du Spectacle collection.

Keynote speakers

François Bovier – University of Lausanne, Switzerland
Tom Konyves – University of the Fraser Valley, Canada

Languages of the conference

English and French

Advisory board

François Bovier – University of Lausanne, Switzerland
Jean-François Cornu – professional translator, France
Ray DiPalma – School of Visual Arts, New York City, poet and graphic artist, US
Bénédicte Fryd – University of Poitiers, France
Fanny Howe – University of California, San Diego, poet, novelist and short story writer, US
Tom Konyves – University of the Fraser Valley, poet and filmmaker, Canada
Philippe Marty – Paul Valéry University, Montpellier, France
Eithne O’Neill – *Positif*, France

Organisers

Vincent Dussol – Paul Valéry University, Montpellier, France
Adriana Şerban – Paul Valéry University, Montpellier, France

Venue

Saint Charles research campus of Paul Valéry University, Montpellier

Registration fees

Early bird, before 15 April 2015: 70 euros. Lunch (two days; participation optional) will be an additional 60 euros and the conference dinner (optional) costs 40 euros.

Regular, before 1 June 2015: 120 euros. Lunch and conference dinner: please see above.

Student, retired person, employment seeker: 30 euros. Lunch and conference dinner: please see above.