

Volume 02

Cross-Roads.

Polish Studies in Culture,
Literary Theory, and History

Edited by Ryszard Nycz
and Teresa Walas

Andrzej Zawadzki

Literature and Weak Thought

This book is a reconstruction and presentation of the fundamental assumptions of the so-called weak thought, as elaborated mainly by the Italian hermeneutical philosopher Gianni Vattimo and the Romanian philosopher Constantin Noica in his ontology. Both Noica and Vattimo focus on all that is existentially fragile, deficient, crippled or defective. The way in which weak being manifests itself can be best expressed by using the concept of the trace. Some motifs of weak thought serve to reinterpret certain fundamental concepts of poetics, firstly, the concept of mimesis, treated here as a kind of tracing, and secondly, the concept of the textual subject as a trace. The book also describes these tendencies in modern literature in which the intuition of weak being has most fully expressed itself. In general terms, this intuition is that of a reality that has lost its substantiality and essentiality. This intuition is most frequently expressed by the motif of the trace in its various different meanings: as the imprint, the remnant, the sign-message.

Andrzej Zawadzki is Assistant Professor at the Department of Polish of Jagiellonian University, Cracow. He has worked as a lecturer of Polish literature at Sorbonne University, Paris. His research interest comprises literary theory, comparative literature, philosophy and literature, as well as philosophical and literary hermeneutics.

 PETER LANG
EDITION

ISBN 978-3-631-63649-7



9 783631 636497

www.peterlang.com