



FACULTY OF LETTERS

Journal of Letters and Translation

Call for papers: Literary dossier, issue number 19:

Describe, symbolize, represent skin

The most profound thing about man

is his skin.

Paul Valery

The theme of the dossier issue number 19 of the Journal of Letters and Translation revolves around the skin being the contact point between the individual and the world and also a place of thought and even of language. The skin constitutes moreover a natural border between the inside and the outside.

Below are some areas for reflection that are likely to be a source of inspiration for the desired articles:

- It is the place for original learning that falls into a given space and time and that requires the contact with the other. It is not surprising at all that skin is indeed a privileged surface of inscription: it is a place of unconscious memory where good and bad things molded by the primary object are buried. It is the first place of body-to-body contact in the very perception of the maternal body touching its being that has come into the world;
- The love sphere is also a place of encounter of two skins that attract each other, mingle and sometimes control each other in a tactile communication where other senses are also equally involved;
- Indeed, skin cannot be only limited to the sense of touch: it shows to others parts of an individual life through visible signs such as: color, youth, brightness, wrinkles, scars, marks of his/her suffering, joy, sickness. The skin is a mirror image;
- Moreover, ritual skin procedures could describe the most repressed strata of human psyche and could ensure a link between one's deepest desires and his/her imposed societal status. The body speaks through clothing style and also through piercings, tattoos, scarification, makeup.... as so many primitive means of communication become nowadays identity signs.

That being said, one must consider, as David Le Breton said, “the cutaneous limits of the human condition”.

- On another level, the “body-skin” is not only a result of nature but also of culture: one cannot forget that nudity haunts art namely in painting and in sculpture, shaking up hence our taboos and calling into question our relationships with each other.
- Finally, the « skin-image » can also spark many reflections, especially with a plethora of current strategies aiming the appearance and a youth striving to be “eternal”.

This call for papers invites researchers to think about the skin motive according to one or another aforementioned perspective through reflections supported by literary, cinematographic, artistic, semiological productions in which the skin is a founding constituent.

Scientific proposals shall be sent (abstract may not exceed 250 words and shall be accompanied by 5 keywords) to the following address flettres@usek.edu.lb on Thursday, December 20, 2018 at the latest. The scientific committee of the *Journal of Letters and Translation* will answer applicants by Thursday, January 17, 2019. Accepted contributions shall be sent according to APA typographic and referencing style to the same aforementioned address by Thursday, May 23rd, 2019 at the latest.