

Engaging Estrangement: Defamiliarization Across Genres

“2020, and each year since, has been an era of ostranenie, an age of estrangement, a time when the familiar becomes laden with unfamiliar risk. We are living in a world where the familiar no longer feels like that, even if you deny it, even if you try to live like it is 2019, because the unfamiliar-familiar is all around us.” - Gabrielle Bellot, “Mapping the Unknown: Literary Defamiliarization in Our Pandemic Era”

ostranenie:

aw-strah-nuh-nee

making strange, and pushing aside.

“Art removes objects from the automatism of perception” - Viktor Shklovsky, “Art as Technique” (1917)

Ways to Defamiliarize

Inverted Imagery

- intended as prosaic and accepted as poetic, or intended as poetic and accepted as prosaic.

Parallelism

- Creating a unique semantic modification (turn of phrase) to transfer the usual perception of an object into the sphere of new perception

A Point of View that is Off-Center

- “The story of Hansel and Gretel becomes more interesting only when told from the point of view of the witch.” - Charles Baxter

Disordering Rhythm

- “The current problem in the theory of rhythm...the problem is not one of complicating the rhythm but of disordering the rhythm - a disordering which cannot be predicted.”- Viktor Shklovsky



Witch, Anna Bunting-Branch via Slade School of Art



via Faces in Things

Further Reading:

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