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Abstract

With the child as standard
- The aesthetics of the naïve

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In children's literature various images of the child have been constructed. Such images reflect the epoch during which they have been created. Depending on the context different images may exist in the same period, which means that they are related to prevailing ideologies of the society in question. With the child as a trade mark authors can express their own opinions. Since a long time ago the child, the childish or the naïve have influenced the aesthetics and the perception of art, its role and function. My purpose is to give some examples of what I call "the aesthetics of the naïve". My discussion, which includes a short survey of the history of the aesthetics, departs from philosophers such as Kant and Baumgarten as well as from different literary manifestos. Authors who will be treated are Baudelaire, Tristan Tzara and André Breton. I will also take into consideration how, during the 1960s and 70s in Sweden, the aesthetics of the naïve was an important connecting link between the culture for adults and the culture for children.