



Narratives in the Anthropocene era

Charles Travis, Vittorio Valentino (Eds.)

Animals' Optical Democracy in the fiction of Cormac McCarthy

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Abstract

From the 1960s onward, American cultural perceptions started to evolve greatly. The development of ethology in the 1970's begun to challenge ways of perceiving animals; more broadly, the concern spurred by the destruction of nature encouraged new aesthetic representations of nature. Animal Studies started to develop, opening a new connection between ethology and humanities. Animals occupy a great deal of space in the writings of Cormac McCarthy. The borders between human and animals are blurred, as the reader navigates unilateral violence, the importance of the sensorial world. the quest for survival, or the importance of movement – with characters and texts that seem to be moving just for the sake of moving. Literature can be seen as a possible aesthetical answer to science. The connection between the physical environment and the written text underlines the limits of anthropocentrism in the field of humanities.

Keywords: Animals, Cormac McCarthy, USA, Ecocriticism, Democracy

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