

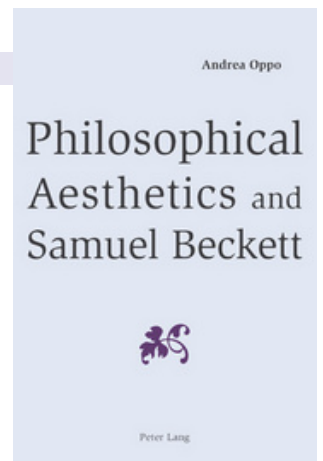
Oppo, Andrea

Philosophical Aesthetics and Samuel Beckett

Oxford, Bern, Berlin, Bruxelles, Frankfurt am Main, New York, Wien, 2008. 268 pp.

Print: ISBN 978-3-03911-824-3 pb. (Softcover)
SFR 60.00 / €* 53.50 / €** 55.00 / € 50.00 / £ 40.00 / US\$ 64.95

Order online: www.peterlang.com



Book synopsis

This book examines the role of Samuel Beckett in contemporary philosophical aesthetics, primarily through analysis of both his own essays and the various interpretations that philosophers (especially Adorno, Blanchot, Deleuze, and Badiou) have given to his works. The study centres around the fundamental question of the relationship between art and truth, where art, as a negative truth, comes to its complete exhaustion (as Deleuze terms it) by means of a series of 'endgames' that progressively involve philosophy, writing, language and every individual and minimal form of expression.

The major thesis of the book is that, at the heart of Beckett's philosophical project, this 'aesthetics of truth' turns out to be nothing other than the real subject itself, within a contradictory and tragic relationship that ties the Self/Voice to the Object/Body. Yet a number of questions remain open. 'What' or 'who' lies behind this process? What is left of the endgame of art and subjectivity? Finally, what sustains and renders possible Beckett's paradoxical axiom of the 'impossibility to express' alongside the 'obligation to express'? By means of a thorough overview of the most recent criticism of Beckett, this book will try to answer these questions.

Contents

Contents: Beckett's philosophy as a discourse on 'exits' – Beckett as Essayist – From Dante to Proust: Beckett's Literary Criticism Years – In Dialogue with Van Velde: Painting and Philosophy – Theodor Adorno and Beckett – Beckett's Aesthetics of truth – Exhausting the Possible Field of Narrative: Deleuze and Beckett – Beckett with Jerzy Grotowski – Thinking Differently from Thinking: The Body in Beckett's Later Theatre – Beyond the Stalemate of Subjectivity.

About the author(s)/editor(s)

The Author: Andrea Oppo is Lecturer in Aesthetics at the Pontifical Faculty of Theology of Sardinia. He obtained his B.A. at the University of Florence, and his M.A. at the University of Bologna: his undergraduate thesis was on the Russian philosopher Lev Shestov, and his Master's thesis on the Italian novelist Dino Buzzati. In 2005 he completed a doctoral dissertation on the philosophical thought of Samuel Beckett at University College Dublin. He is the author of articles on Russian philosophy, aesthetics, and philosophy of literature.

Our prices are recommended retail prices and are exclusive of shipping costs. We reserve the right to alter prices. We supply to libraries at a discount of 5%.

* incl. VAT - only applies to Germany and EU customers without VAT Reg No

** incl. VAT - only applies to Austria