Popular modernism: representations of modernist literature in popular culture

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Acknowledgments

Shortly after I finished my MA thesis in philosophy, Mieke Bal encouraged me to join the ASCA seminars. This was in 1999 and the seminars were still taking place in the impressive room 101 in the Bungehuis, where the furniture and the paintings of mostly old male scholars did not escape the scrutiny of cultural analysis. Not only is Mieke Bal one of the founders of ASCA, her active participation in the seminars inspired many students like me. Mieke has an extraordinary talent to see the complexity of what is seemingly simple; a complexity that she then disentangles with rigorous logical reasoning. The seminars formed an invigorating intellectual environment to which I feel indebted, among the participants in these first years were Michael Burke, Yolande Jansen, Catherine Lord, Sudeep Dasgupta, Sean de Koekkoek, Jaap Kooijman, Ihab Saloul, Stephan Besser, Joyce Goggin and many others. I took a break from the university for a couple of years, but returned in 2005, again encouraged by Mieke Bal who then agreed to be my supervisor. Her advice and critique were always direct and unscrupulous, which asked for resilience, but also made clear that she was convinced that I could do better. I want to thank her for her stimulations and guidance during all those years and, above all, her analytical thought, which has taught me more than I can say.

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