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IMAGES OF ADVANCED OLD AGE IN RECENT POLISH FICTION

Summary

The article outlines a new typology of old age, conditioned by the tensions generated in interpersonal relations. According to this scheme, there are three types of old age (ways of handling its arrival): 1/ intimate (accepted as something familiar, recognizable, emotionally resonant); 2/ alien (rejected or excluded as something extremely uncongenial, intolerably intrusive, hostile), and 3/ late (embracing values other than the usually expected wisdom, maturity and peace of mind). Drawing on the Edward Said's last book *On Late Style* the article examines some of the mainly rebellious and subversive impulses introduced into cultural debate by artists in the late stage of their lives. Said's interpretative strategies are brought to bear on Eustachy Rylski's *Na grobli* (*On the Dyke*) and Ignacy Karłowicz's *Gesty* (*Gestures*). The discussion of old age in this article is also inscribed into Peter Sloterdijk's opposition of Eros and Thymos, which connotes maturity, pride and individual growth.