



Cecília Meireles and Gabriela Mistral by a Humanist Education for Latin America

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Abstract

Ou isto ou aquilo (1964), by Cecília Meireles, and Ternura (1924), by, Gabriela Mistral, books they have devoted to children, provides us with material to think about the project that they had in common: a humanistic education for Latin America. We can think in this "humanism" as a Edward Said calls "worldly humanism", based on an attitude engaged in opposite of the alienation and exclusion, and also the dialogue with the traditions. Cecilia Meireles (1901-1964) and Gabriela Mistral (1889-1967) met in Brazil in 1937, when the now famous Chilean poet and intellectual arrived in Rio de Janeiro as consul of Chile. Both were actively involved in public debate of their times. They worked hard as writers and the education were the focus of this engagement. Gabriela and Cecília were a actively communion in the society on their time through articles in newspapers and magazines and the connections with foreign intellectuals. The poetry and educator were movements that they had in common, and that coincided with the profound connection both with life and History. The meaning given to formal education in the trajectory of these writers is an education in poetry, the playful disposition aroused by beauty - a state of freedom. It is the possibility of developing deeper layers of human sensitivity, close to what they thought the German Romantics of the nineteenth century: Novalis, Schlegel, and Schiller in his Letters on the Aesthetic Education of Man. It is therefore the idea that the exercise of "free play of reason and sensibility " (SCHILLER. Letter XV, 84) the man can develop fully in their intellectual and sensitive abilities.

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