



Reading Wisdoms

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Abstract

Using the metaphor of circus tents throughout the essay, the writer explains how important knowing critical and cultural theory is for a contemporary poet. The writer explores the idea of generation mentioned within Mick Jagger's "As Tears Go By," W.B. Yeats' "Sailing to Byzantium," and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak's "Reading the World." He establishes a connection among each as the essay moves through each work's passages on the idea of generation. The essay equates wisdom to Michele Foucault's "empirical order of a primary code" and the "middle region which liberates order itself" as the place for poetry and what Jean-Francois Lyotard would call the differend. The essay seems to suggest that the idea of "poetic truth" is more difficult to access than one might think. The essay closes with the writer suggesting the kinds of reading and thinking contemporary poets should be doing in light of the thinking brought to bear in the disciplines in the late 20th and early 21st Century.