



Ángeles Mastretta: mujeres, revolución y melodrama [

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text (article)

Analítica

This article analyzes the fictional work of writer Ángeles Mastretta, considering three of its most outstanding and polemic issues: its relation with feminism, its way of revisiting Mexican twentieth century history, and its inclination toward melodrama. We start out by reviewing the main disqualifying articles of literary critics against the author and her work. However, our reading of these censuring words is done in the overall context of debate on the LatinAmerican "post-boom". This implies approaching them in the face of transformations during the latter part of the twentieth century regarding literary paradigms provided and legitimated by the boom. As to the first issue, we observe that her point of view falls short of an organic or programmatic conception and is more a feminine than a feminist approach. As to the revolutionary and post-revolutionary Mexico, we highlight her critical and iconoclastic focus, as well as her valuable emphasis on the private lives of those in power. Finally, we review the main objection of Mastretta's critics, based on which her work is denied literary value; specifically her filiation to a representational input as vilified as melodrama. Our assessment, however, is much less prejudiced. Thus we scrutinize Mastretta's unorthodox treatment of this literary genre; in other words, the way in which she makes parody, and broadens and enriches it

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