

**pARadOXiSM – THE LAST LITERARY,  
ARTISTIC, AND PHILOSOPHIC  
VANGUARD OF THE SECOND  
MILLENNIUM**

**edited by Charles Le**

[From the book: **NonPoems**, by Florentin Smarandache, Xiquan Publishing House, Phoenix, Chicago, 1991, 1992, 1993;

the volume contains very experimental so called, such as:

- poems without verse;
- poems without poems;
- poem-drafts;
- drawn-poems;
- poems in Pirissanorenoch (language spoken in the South-West of the United States by a single person);
- super-poems;
- graphic poems;
- upset-poems.]

## A) Definition:

PARADOXISM is an avant-garde movement in literature, art, philosophy, science, based on excessive use of antitheses, antinomies, contradictions, parables, paraphrases, odds, anti-clichés, deviations of senses, parodies of proverbs and aphorisms, against-the-grain speech, upside-down interpretations, nonsense, paradoxes, semiparadoxes in creations. Paradoxism tries to find common parts to apparently uncommon things in any human field.

It was set up and led by the writer Florentin Smarandache since 1980's, who said: "The goal is to enlargement of the artistic sphere through non-artistic elements. But especially the counter-time, counter-sense creation. Also, to experiment."

## B) Etymology:

Paradoxism = paradox+ism, means the theory and school of using paradoxes in literary and artistic creation.

## C) History:

"Paradoxism started as an anti-totalitarian protest against a closed society, Romania of 1980's, where the entire culture was manipulated by a small group. Only their ideas and their publications counted. We couldn't publish almost anything.

Then, I said: Let's do literature... without doing literature! Let's write... without actually writing anything. How? Simply: object literature! 'The flight of a bird', for example, represents a "natural poem", that is not necessary to write down, being more palpable

and perceptible in any language than some signs laid on the paper, which, in fact, represent an "artificial poem": deformed, resulted from a translation by the observant of the observed, and by translation one falsifies. 'The cars jingling on the street' was a "city poem", 'peasants mowing' a "disseminationist poem", 'the dream with open eyes' a "surrealist poem", 'foolishly speaking' a "dadaist poem", 'the conversation in Chinese for an ignorant of this language' a "lettrist poem", 'alternating discussions of travelers, in a train station, on different themes' a "post-modern poem" (inter-textualism).

Do you want a vertically classification? "Visual poem", "sonorous poem", "olfactory poem", "taste poem", "tactile poem".

Another classification in diagonal: "poem-phenomenon", "poem-(soul) status", "poem-thing".

In painting, sculpture similarly - all existed in nature, already fabricated.

Therefore, a mute protest we did!

Later, I based it on contradictions. Why? Because we lived in that society a double life: an official one - propagated by the political system, and another one real. In mass-media it was promulgated that 'our life is wonderful', but in reality 'our life was miserable'. The paradox flourishing! And then we took the creation in derision, in inverse sense, in a syncretic way. Thus the paradoxism was born. The folkloric jokes, at great fashion in Ceausescu's 'Epoch', as an intellectual breathing, were superb springs.

The "No" and "Anti" from my paradoxist manifestos had a creative character, not at all nihilistic

(C. M. Popa). The passage from paradoxes to paradoxism was documentarily described by Titu Popescu in his classical book concerning the movement: "Paradoxism's Aesthetics" (1994). While I. Soare, I. Rotaru, M. Barbu, Gh. Niculescu studied paradoxism in my literary work. N. Manolescu asserted, about one of my manuscripts of non-poems, that they are against-the-hair.

I didn't have any forerunner to influence me, but I was inspired from the 'upside-down situation' that existed in the country. I started from politic, social, and immediately got to literature, art, philosophy, even science.

Through experiments one brings new literary, artistic, philosophical or scientific terms, new procedures, methods or even algorithms of creation. In one of my manifestos I proposed the sense of embezzlings, changes from figurative to proper sense, upside-down interpretation of linguistic expressions.

In 1993 I did a paradoxist tour to literary associations and universities in Brazil.

Within 30 years of existence, 30 books and over 200 commentaries (articles, reviews) have been published, plus 5 national and international anthologies." (Florentin Smarandache)

## D) Features of Paradoxism

# Basic Thesis of Paradoxism:

Everything has a meaning and a non-meaning in a harmony with each other.

# Essence of Paradoxism:

a) the sense has a non-sense, and reciprocally

b) the non-sense has a sense.

# Motto of Paradoxism:

"All is possible, the impossible too!"

# Symbol of Paradoxism:

(a spiral -- optic illusion, or vicious circle)

# Delimitation from Other Avant-Gardes:

- paradoxism has a significance, while dadaism, lettrism, the absurd movement do not;

- paradoxism especially reveals the contradictions, the antinomies, anti-theses, anti-phrases, antagonism, non-conformism, the paradoxes in other words of anything (in literature, art, science), while futurism, cubism, surrealism, abstractism and all other avant-gardes do not focus on them.

# Directions of Paradoxism:

- to use science methods (especially algorithms) for generating (and studying also) contradictory literary and artistic works;

- to create contradictory literary and artistic works in scientific spaces (using scientific: symbols, meta-language, matrices, theorems, lemmas, etc.).

## E) Third Paradoxist Manifesto

Therefore, don't enforce any literary rules on me!  
Or, if you do, I'll certainly encroach upon them. I'm not a poet, that's why I write poetry.

I'm an anti-poet or non-poet.

I thus came to America to re-build the Statue of Liberty of the Verse, delivered from the tyranny of the classic and its dogma.

I allowed any boldness:

- anti-literature and its literature;

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- flexible forms fixed, or the alive face of the death!

- style of the non-style;

- poems without verse (because poems don't mean words)- dumb poems with loud voice;

- poems without poems (because the notion of "poem" doesn't match any definition found in dictionaries or encyclopedias) - poems which exist by their absence;

- after-war literature: pages and pages bombed by filthiness, triteness, and non-poeticity;

- paralinguistic verse (only!): graphics, lyrical portraits, drawings, drafts...

- non-words and non-sentence poems;

- very upset free verse and trivial hermetic verse;

- intelligible unintelligible language;

- unsolved and open problems of mathematics like very nice poems of the spirit - we must scientificize the art in this technical century;

- impersonal texts personalized;

- electrical shock;

- translation from the impossible into the possible, or transformation of the abnormal to the normal;

- pro Non-Art Art;

- make literature from everything, make literature from nothing!

The poet is not a prince of ducks! The notion of "poetry" and its derivatives have become old-fashioned in this century, and people laugh at them in disregard. I'm ashamed to affirm that I create lyrical texts, I hide them. People neither read nor listen to lyrical texts

anymore, but they will read this volume because it's nothing to read!

However, the Paradoxist Movement is neither nihilism, nor disparity.

The book of the non-poems is a protest against art's marketing.

Do you writers sell your feelings? Do you create only for money?

Only books about crimes, sex, horror are published. Where is the true Art?

In begging... .

You may find in this book of uncollected poems everything you don't need and don't like: poems not to be read, not to be heard, not to be written at all!

Enjoy them. Only after nuisance you really know what pleasure means.

They provide a mirror of everybody's infinite soul. Art, generally speaking, is pushed up to its last possible frontiers toward non-art, and even more...

Better a book of blank pages, than one, which says nothing.

A very abstract and symbolic language is further used, but very concrete at the same time: non-restrictive verse from any form or content. It takes advantage of cliché against itself.

EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE, THEREFORE: THE IMPOSSIBLE TOO! Hence don't wonder about this anti-book! If you don't understand it, that means you understand all. That is the goal of the manifesto. Because Art is not for the mind, but for feelings. Because Art is also for the mind.

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Try to interpret the un-interpretable! Your imagination may flourish as a cactus in a desert.

But, The American Manifesto of the PARADOXISM is especially a revolt of the emigrant to the United States who doesn't speak English, against the language - an anti-language book written in more than a broken English (the American speech of Tomorrow?)...