

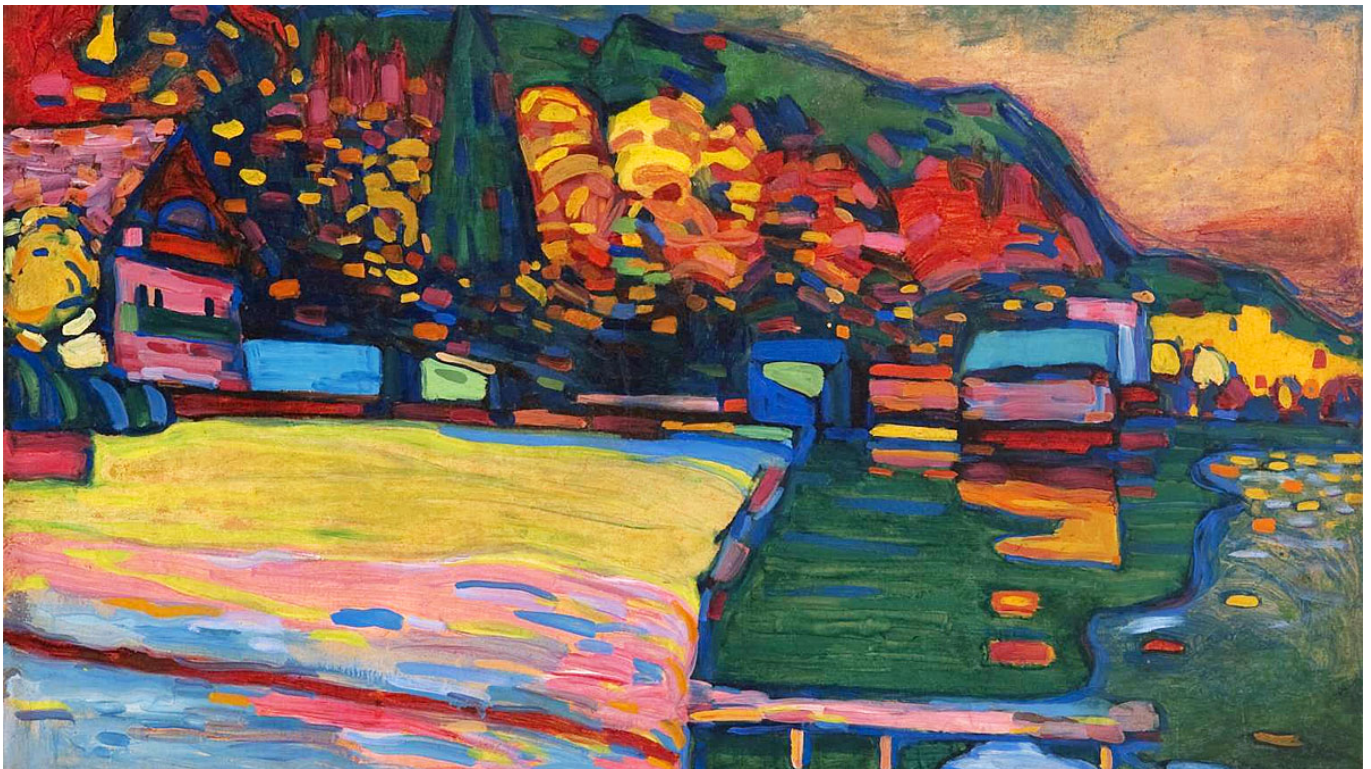
MOVE ABLE TYPE

Call for Papers

Volume 12: Nostalgia

Summer 2020

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON ENGLISH JOURNAL



Wassily Kandinsky, *Lake Starnberg*, 1908

Marcel Proust closes the first volume of *À la recherche du temps perdu* with the assertion that ‘remembrance of a particular form is but regret for a particular moment; and houses, roads, avenues are as fugitive, alas, as the years.’ To Proust, nostalgia for the past, no matter how powerful, can only ever be a pale imitation of previous lived experience.

Nostalgia has come to stand for sensations of loss with regards to the irretrievable nature of places, communities, and experiences that no longer exist as they once did, or indeed, as Svetlana Boym suggests, may never even have existed in the first place. In her seminal work *The Future of Nostalgia* (2001), Boym describes the emotion ‘as a defense mechanism in a time of accelerated rhythms of life and historical upheaval.’ Nostalgia is often construed as a conservative force, one which seeks to revert to past certainties as a response to the mutability of the present. Nevertheless, the act of looking back can also lead to radical leaps forward, as the retrieval of that which appears lost to the past can the potential to act as a catalyst for renewal.

As our current climate makes clear, the manipulation of nostalgia can have significant impact on

the social fabric, in terms of the way that we conceive of our place in history and our future trajectory. Volume 12 of UCL English Department's journal, *Moveable Type*, looks to explore the nostalgic impulse, broadly interpreted. In addition, we will consider artistic responses such as poetry, flash-fiction and short stories. Some potential topics may include, **but are not limited to the following**:

- Lost time: memory and temporality in literature
- Life-writing/auto-fiction
- Nationalism and revivalist literature
- Lateness and late-coming
- Looking back in anger: the dangers of nostalgia
- The nostalgia of history, myth and folklore
- Editing: the search for the Ur-text
- Postcolonialism, decolonialization, and exile
- Amnesia and forgetting
- Iconoclasm and nostalgia: policing the past
- Solastalgia - nostalgia for a prior ecological state
- The retro
- Sensory nostalgia
- The nostalgic impulse in canon formation
- Hauntological readings of nostalgia

Please send submissions to editors.moveabletype@gmail.com by **20 March 2020** (doc/docx files only), with a short abstract and bio in the main body. Academic articles are limited to 3000-5000 words and should subscribe to MHRA referencing guidelines. Authors are limited to only one submission. We ask that creative responses do not exceed 5000 words, but can be an interlinked series of poems or prose pieces. All academic submissions will be double-blind peer reviewed, and feedback will be provided for all submissions.

In case of any queries, please contact Niall Ó Cuileagáin or Sam Caleb at niall.culligan.15@ucl.ac.uk and sam.caleb.18@ucl.ac.uk respectively.

Call for Reviews

We are also accepting pitches for reviews of academic works relevant to the theme of nostalgia, broadly interpreted. Upon the acceptance of a pitch, writers will submit 700 to 1000 word pieces that critically analyse a recent monograph or edition. Potential books could include:

- Critical editions of authors and texts
- Theoretical works that focus on new or developing critical methodologies
- Novels, poetry collections or dramatic texts
- Secondary material on authors that are relevant to the theme of nostalgia

Reviews of recent digital resources are also desired. Books for consideration must have been published since 2017. If this is of interest to you, please send pitches to editors.moveabletype@gmail.com with the full bibliographical information and a few sentences explaining why you want to review the book by **20 March 2020**. **We do not limit pitches to academic texts only, and welcome pitches for reviews of all genres and media.**