Dying for Time: Proust, Woolf, Nabokov


Martin Hägglund develops a sustained attack on what he considers to be immortality fantasies.


Dying for Time engages classical questions concerning the art of desire, the nature of temporal experience, and why we are marked by a work of art, Marcel Proust, Virginia Woolf, and Vladimir Nabokov transformed the art of the novel in order to convey the experience of time. Nevertheless, their works have been read as expressions of a desire to transcend time — whether through an epiphany of memory, an immortal moment of being, or a transcendent afterlife.

Research

Dying for Time: Proust, Woolf, Nabokov has been read as expressions of a desire to transcend time. Hägglund argues that these texts are driven by the attempt to resist temporal passing in favor of preserving a transcendent moment of full being.

Dying for Time: Proust, Woolf, Nabokov ultimately convinces one of the validity of its author's Derrida-influenced challenge, as Martin Hägglund carefully refutes prominent critics, as well as Freud and Lacan, and consistently proves the validity of his chronolibidinal reading of these texts.