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Zwischen Omnipotenz und Ohnmacht, Überhöhung und Unterwanderung: Zerfall der „Vaterordnung“ und Masochismus bei Bruno Schulz

Summary

Bruno Schulz, an an teacher and one of the most prominent members of the Polish avant-garde, was the third child of a Jewish clothier, born in 1892 in Galician Drohobycz at the outskirts of the Habsburg Empire. It was here that he was shot and killed on the street by a Gestapo officer in 1942. The essay examines Schulz's autobiographical narratives „Zimtladen“ (Cinnamon Store) and „Sanatorium zur Todesanzeige“ (Sanatorium to Obituary), which create a private mythology. The narratives are placed in the social-cultural environment of Galicia at the beginning of the 20th Century and will be examined with regard to the father-son relationship and gender issues. In the analysis of the narratives' gender constructions (adoring and at the same time "killing" the feminine), Gilles Deleuze's masochism concept proves helpful. The background of Jewish culture is also taken into consideration. The author shows how Schulz simultaneously reconstructs and deconstructs discredited patriarchal masculine ideals. She examines as well Schulz's repeatedly unsuccessful attempts to inscribe his father-figure with traditional father-mythos.