Romanian Electronic Poetry-Ioana Bot, Dilemateca File March 2008

Usually when speaking (Romanian) about this new way of writing poetry, there is a confusion between the art for which the electronic environment is irreducible and "computer poetry", where the "machine" only offers electronic support to texts that can be otherwise printed without, (see http://hyperliteratura.reea.net, "alternative literary blog") but which practices writing in its classical forms, the only new thing being the editing support. Therefore many of the electronic books that are formatted as "real" ones, but just not printed, are not "electronic literature (or poetry)"(such as those from www.liternet.ro, an address already prestigious in this area).

They do not belong to these new literary species, despite their negligent use of the "electronic" attribute when one speaks of them, nor do the writings that make the computer a source of thematic innovations; In this category are some of the successes of the last years: the volumes of Adrian Otoiu, "Hot keys for soft windows", "Computer Books for Literary Spirits" (1998), "Clumsiness and Enormities", "Computer books for literary spirits" (1999), respectively Andrei Codrescu, Mesi @ (Romanian translation - 2006). Criticism has, improperly, welcomed them as "poetry on the computer "; Ande Cadariu's book, Lovem @ ilproject (LiterNet.ro, 2005), which offers a print version at the end of the screen reading - in fact, it is a rather classic poem in its formulas, leaning on its lexicon and the imaginary borrowed from the field of electronic mail.

In the chapter "The lousy cheats for confusion", and because my friend Google.ro insists on it, I remember here a Romanian software for writing cyber poems, which can be purchased online (at www.infoapart.ro, with 18,99 EUR; copyright 2004).

The CyberPoems program (http://www.cyberpoems.inforapart.ro/) is presented improperly but with aplomb as a world premiere in the field; poetry is also understood here as a written, printable, two-dimensional and finite text ("classic", that is), only written with the help of a computer, depending on a minimal thematic and lexicals selection of the user (you want a poem ... love, ... separation, etc., using the words ..., avoiding words ... etc.). Obviously, the issue of electronic

literature is unknown to Inforapart programmers, who also offer on-line management software for "natural contraception and sexual life management."

There are finally some Romanian artists such as Kiss Pal Szabolcs (v. Mobius.htm, www.context.ro/inserts.htm#), Delia Popa (5 + 20 Words, http://offset.underconstruct.com/ 2005 /) or Alexandru Gherban (member of the group Transitera observable, http://gherban.free.fr), whose electronic artistic creations in the field of visual arts also use texts, bringing in their parameters elements of the literary order (language figures, narrative clichés, etc.); but what they create contains texts exclusively in English or French, according to our knowledge.

Electronic poetry in Romanian remains to be invented. Evidence that between the "poet born Romanian" and the legendary Romanian genius IT-person the meeting has not yet taken place.

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