

Eric Dayre

“Translation, Transition, Newness. From De Quincey to Baudelaire and Rimbaud.”

In this lecture, Eric Dayre examines the peculiarities of translational movements in Thomas De Quincey’s visions and language. More specifically, he will address De Quincey’s influence on the ‘poem in prose’ in Baudelaire’s translations and productions, as well as on the concept of modernity as ‘transitory time’. This will subsequently lead to a close analysis of De Quincey’s import in Rimbaud’s invention of ‘Je est un autre’. Dayre argues that Rimbaud’s statement should be understood as referring to an intralinguistic process of translation, in the sense that poetry teems with internal self-translatory phenomena and capacities. Poetry, in other words, scrutinizes language as it is constantly undergoes a process of translation, which defines history as the event of newness.

Eric Dayre is Professor of comparative literature at the Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon and founder and director of CERCC (Centre d’Etudes et de Recherches sur la Création. His books include *L’absolu comparé, littérature et traduction* (Hermann, 2009), *Une histoire dissemblable, le tournant poétique du romantisme anglais 1797-1834* (Hermann, 2010). He is also a contributing editor of the Pléiade edition of the *Œuvres de Thomas De Quincey* (2011) and a translator of De Quincey’s works.