

The end of literary theory / Stein Haugrom Olsen

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Abstrak

The essays in this book are essays in literary aesthetics. They deal with philosophical problems which arise in connection with the appreciation and evaluation of literary works and with problems that arise because there is a practice of writing and reading literary works. Though they were written over a period of more than ten years, the essays are unified by a consistent perspective on theoretical problems and by a consistent scepticism about the possibility of any general theory of literature, be it Marxist, Freudian, Structuralist or Post-Structuralist. Literary theories come and go, it seems, more and more quickly. But the practice of literature remains and so do the philosophical problems connected with it. The need to deal with these problems in a philosophically responsible way remains and cannot be ignored.