

The Agony of Ecstasy: Spectacles of Life in an Intoxicat(ed)ing World

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Abstract

Nietzsche's *Die Geburt der Tragödie* (The Birth of Tragedy from the Spirit of Music) represents a re-interpretation of the two mythical figures of Apollo and Dionysos. Nietzsche postulates the emergence, the birth of Greek art from two sources of Olympian inspiration: Apollo and Dionysos, hence the paradigmatic opposition between two cultural configurations: Apollonian / Dionysian. In this paper I will delve into an interpretation of Nietzsche's exploration of the concept of "art" perceived as an interrelation between the Apollonian and the Dionysian and I will explore the similarities between intoxication à la Nietzsche and carnival à la Bakhtin.