

Il paesaggio montano. L'interpretazione estetica di Joachim Ritter

KATIA BOTTA

Università degli Studi dell'Insubria

Abstract

The Mountain Landscape. Joachim Ritter's aesthetic interpretation

The German philosopher Joachim Ritter (1903-1974) formulated one of the most important theories about mountain landscape aesthetics. His purpose was to establish an innovative method of interpretation based on the beholder's gaze. His approach ultimately restored the ancient bond between man and nature, which only philosophy had taken into account. Ritter considered art and poetry as mediators of the aesthetic process, an approach intended to properly identify the value of literary and artistic events: for example, he analyzed the experience of the poet Francesco Petrarca in his climb of Mont Ventoux, a fundamental witness of the development of the modern vision of landscape. Ritter also proved the connection between landscape architecture and mountain aesthetics, and he assessed the importance of the report of the French artist Paul Cézanne (1839-1906) about his visit to the Sainte-Victoire massif.

Keywords: Joachim Ritter; aesthetic contemplation; Francesco Petrarca; mountain aesthetics; Paul Cézanne; Friedrich Schiller.