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Razón, sensibilidad y norma en la poética europea de la Ilustración

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In the 18th century, and particularly in the Enlightenment age there existed the so called «philosophical spirit». According to this, a series of intellectual reflections natural to the 18th century philosophical debate were transferred into other subjects such as literature, aesthetics and literary criticism. In this way, poetical theory pondered on the problem of nature, artistic beauty and on its creation and perception thanks to the action of non-logical but essentially sensitive abilities. It was necessary for the 18th poetics, heir of previous classicism, that art rules were codified into precepts, thus showing the appropriate connection among reason, ultimately identified with the setting of artistic limitations, sensibility and taste. The latter, directly related to aesthetic experience, introduces the difficult issue of subjectivity intervention in the creative and receptive art processes. The aim of this lecture is to analyze the different views that appeared in Europe in a moment when, either from Cartesian rationalism or from an empirical perception of artistic creation, literary theory is aimed at organizing the foundations and norms of poetry.