



## **Elsa Morante's Politics of Writing: Rethinking Subjectivity, History, and the Power of Art**

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# Elsa Morante's Politics of Writing: Rethinking Subjectivity, History, and the Power of Art

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*Elsa Morante's Politics of Writing* is a collected volume of twenty-one essays written by Morante specialists and international scholars. Essays gather attention on four broad critical topics, namely the relationship Morante entertained with the arts, cinema, theatre, and the visual arts; new critical approaches to her four novels; treatment of body and sexual politics; and Morante's prophetic voice as it emerges in both her literary works and her essayistic writings. Essays focus on Elsa Morante's strategies to address her wide disinterest (and contempt) for the Italian intellectual *status quo* of her time, regardless of its political side, while showing at once her *own* kind of ideological commitment. Further, contributors tackle the ways in which Morante's writings shape classical oppositions such as engagement and enchantment with the world, sin and repentance, self-reflection, and corporality, as well as how her engagement in the visual arts, theatre, and cinematic adaptations of her works garner further perspectives to her stories and characters. Her works—particularly the novels *Menzogna e sortilegio* (*House of Liars*, 1948), *La Storia: Romanzo* (*History: A Novel*, 1974) and, more explicitly, *Aracoeli* (*Aracoeli*, 1982)—foreshadowed and advanced tenets and structures later affirmed by postmodernism, namely the fragmentation of narrative cells, rhizomatic narratives, lack of a linear temporal consistency, and meta- and self-reflective processes.

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