

## Remember Nichita - 90 years since birth

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**Abstract:** *The present study brings to the reader's attention the poetic personality of Nichita Stănescu, who said about the romanian language that it is - divinely beautiful. The work marks an important commemorative moment of romanian literature, 90 years since birth of poet Nichita Stănescu, both writer and essayist. In the introduction, there are references to the peak of the love poem that appeared before the birth of Christ, outlining an arc over time, and reaching the stănescian period. The content of the work talks about Nichita Stănescu's lyricism, which captured the myotic space of romanian literature with a reform, a reorganization of the poetic phenomenon. The innovation brought by Nichita Stănescu to the romanian lyrical universe places the poet of "unwords" alongside Mihai Eminescu and Tudor Arghezi. The work does not lack the actor's projection of Nichita Stănescu's poetry and the conclusions, far from concluding a series of judgements, invite reading.*

**Keywords:** *poetry; word; poetic language; Nichita Stănescu;*

### Introduction

The historical importance of a culture must always be brought up to date for the generations to come can feast on the fruits of knowledge, be it literary, theatrical, musical, choreographic, or of any other kind, so that these generations know that they are not stepping into a void but on the shoulders of artists of great value whom they will have the opportunity to make the most of. This aspect is captured in the present work by bringing into discussion a great name of romanian literature, a terribly exciting character even if you look at him from the perspective of his personal life, even if you look at him from the perspective of his godlike talent for generating poems. Nichita Stănescu, the poet of non-words. The initial documentation was completed through an important event that took place at the "Ioan Popișteanu" University Library of the UOC on April 5, 2023 entitled "Poetry as a monument of eternity". We wanted to pay tribute to the poet Nichita Stănescu as he was, with his love for words.

### 1. Poetry and the way to oneself

The ensemble of procedures used in this material has, as its starting point, the philosophy of the actor in front of the poetic work. There was a need for introspection in the history of poetry, a documentation of Nichita Stănescu's biographical tools. The poet Nichita Stănescu is viewed through the lens of the actor who approaches poetry with a large dose of subjectivity.

Every beginning has its poetry. The first story told by the mother and the first lines learned on her knees, the first celebration, the first time on the stage where, in the spotlight, the game becomes a serious thing, these are all time tunnels that make us learn that games contain serious truths. Many of the answers to our ages come from poetry and the life we live can ultimately become a metaphor.

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“My opinion is that the poet does not have an era of his own; the age has its poets and, in general, the age sees its own poets.”<sup>2</sup> The digital era brings to our attention the material values of the world and poetry becomes a refuge where you can cultivate sensitivity with the help of magical words. The creators of poetry thus open their souls and we, “the consumers”, can enjoy what we see, what we feel. In this era, poetry teaches us and helps us to truly live!

The oldest poems belong to the Sumerian community and mankind inherited them in the form of hymns and songs. The subjects covered in these poems belong to religion, daily life activities, historical accounts, and love stories. At Istanbul Archaeological Museum is the oldest love poem written 4000 years ago, before the advent of the Christian era, on a clay tablet. The poem considered to be - the oldest of the poems - is called “The Love Song of Shu-Sin”. It has no known author and is about the love between Innana, the goddess of love and fertility, and the king of Sumer - Shu-Sin. The verses were recited by the bride of King Shu-Sin during a virility ritual. The feeling of love has always been a source of inspiration for the poets of the world. The artistic creation of Nichita Stănescu, born in the Romanian lyric universe, reveals, with no doubt, a new poetry, a poetry that inspired the idea of poetry and renewed the poetic language in the sweet Romanian language. In the volume of poems “In the sweet classic style” (1970) written by Nichita Stănescu, you can read the poem “Of love”, a special - song - of identifying one's own self, in the other being, in the being that, even if it is not me, she contains me: “She sits there bored, such a lovely delight, / her dark hair is distraught, / her hand ever bright / me has long ago forgot, - / long ago it forgot its own / as it hangs on the nape of the chair./ Into lights I drown / as I grind in the orb of the year. I show her the teeth in my mouth / but she knows that I do not laugh, / the sweet creature of light / me to myself draws forth / while she sits there bored, such a lovely delight, / and only for her I face life / in this world fierce and wild / under the sky.”<sup>3</sup>

Sentimental and objective, at the same time, the exposition of the thought frees the word and even - the non-word – “What strikes you in his work is its global clarity, combined with the impression of spontaneity. An existential act, his lyrics are the direct and powerful expression of the state of inner freedom, resulting from the feeling of fullness from a euphoric state. He had the ambition and the audacity to eradicate the cheap mimicry of forms. He invited us to think, to take an original personal position in any situation, he opened new paths for the spirit, the merit of his originality being novelty and sincerity”.<sup>4</sup>

## 2. Poetry - a rainbow for eternity

Poetry, one of the most valuable forms of human expression, is celebrated every year on March 21. During the 30th General Conference in Paris in 1999, UNESCO established this day as World Poetry Day. Everywhere in the world, poetic language has accompanied the cultures of peoples throughout history and discovered their common values.

Poetry, through the word used, even through the simplest word, is a powerful catalyst for communication, tolerance, peace, love... because as Nichita Stănescu said, “words are very

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<sup>2</sup> Nichita, Stănescu, „Gând 1”, *Poezii Noștri*. Retrieved Mai, 15, 2023, from: <https://poetii-nostri.ro/nichita-stanescu-gand-1-poezie-id-836>.

<sup>3</sup> Nichita, Stănescu, „De dragoste”, *Poezii*. Retrieved Mai 10, 2023, from: <http://www.romanianvoice.com/poezii/poezii/dedragoste.php>.

<sup>4</sup> Nicolae, Bucur, „Home » Cultură » Remember: Nichita Stănescu” – poetul vieții sale”, *Informația Harghitei*. Retrieved Mai, 10, 2023, from: <https://informatiahr.ro/nichita-stanescu-poetul-vietii-sale/>. Retrieved Mai, 10, 2023, from: <https://informatiahr.ro/nichita-stanescu-poetul-vietii-sale/>.

similar to beings, they are really living beings".<sup>5</sup>

World Poetry Day is an opportunity to show the poets of the world due respect, it is the day when poetry lovers organize various events that include poetry recitals, poetry writing classes, initiation into the art of speaking beautifully, movingly, persuasively, screenings take place, round tables, workshops are organized. Also, the World Poetry Day is also a favorable moment for the patrons of the arts to meet, these muses without whom the artist would search in vain for inspiration to create his creation: Calliope - muse of epic poetry, Erato - muse of erotic and romantic poetry, Euterpe – muse of lyric poetry, Thalia – muse of comedy, Polymnia – muse of rhetoric, Terpsichore – muse of dance, Melpomene – muse of song and tragedy.

Ten days after the whole world celebrates Poetry, Romanian literature has March 31 marked in its calendar, the day on which, in 1933, Nichita Hristea Stănescu was born, the one who would become the Romanian poet, Nichita Stănescu, writer and essayist as well.

Nichita Stănescu asserted himself as one of the most captivating creators of modern poetry and the evaluation of his creation was crowned with numerous awards: 1965 - the Writers' Union Award for the poem "A Vision of Feelings", 1970 - the Writers' Union Award for "The Unwords", 1973 - the Writers' Union Award for the volume of essays "Book of Recitation", 1976 - the Writers' Union Award for the volume "The State of Poetry", 1980 – "Mihai Eminescu" Award of the Romanian Academy for "Epica Magna", 1981 – "Cultural Merit" medal, 2nd class, 1982 - Grand Prize "Golden Wreath" at the festival "Struga Poetry Evenings" (Yugoslavia). He was, post-mortem, elected a member of the Romanian Academy. Also, as a recognition of his value, Nichita Stănescu received in 1975 the "Gottfried von Herder" International Cultural Prize instituted by the Alfred Toepfer Foundation and in 1979 he was nominated for the Nobel Prize for Literature, by the Swedish Academy. Nomination for the Nobel Prize is the highest achievement a Romanian writer has achieved so far.

### 3. The right to immortality

"I am nothing / but a blood stain / that speaks."<sup>6</sup> The significant influence of Nichita Stănescu's poem on those for whom reading his poetry is a joy, but also the mirage of reciting it with studied eloquence, in the case of professional actors, brings a unique poetic mode, a universal poetic space and time to the system of thinking and feeling of the human being. "This creator becomes a kind of window to something much more comprehensive than the common experience of the other creators in his field of activity. He sees better, more deeply, more radically: he overturns, with his new tool of knowledge, the established boundaries. Moreover, his creation acquires all the appearances of a universal key to the world. It is simple, it looks at everything, it can account for everything. It becomes more ultimate, more feverish, stranger. Regarding knowledge, it resembles the shrill cry of a brilliant poem."<sup>7</sup>

Nichita Stănescu enjoyed the friendship of great actors who, in turn, felt special in the poet's entourage: Ion Caramitru, Octavian Cotescu, Toma Caragiu, Eusebiu Ștefănescu,

<sup>5</sup> Gaby, „Cuvintele sunt foarte asemănătoare cu ființele, ele sunt chiar ființe”, *My heart to your heart*. (n.d.). Retrieved Mai 16, 2023, from: <https://g1b2i3.wordpress.com/2008/08/27/cuvintele-sunt-foarte-asemanatoare-cu-fiintele-ele-sunt-chiar-fiinte/>.

<sup>6</sup> Nichita, Stănescu „Autoportret”, *Versuri.ro*, Retrieved Mai, 15, 2023, from: <https://www.versuri.ro/versuri/nichita-stanescu-autoportret/>.

<sup>7</sup> Mihaela, Doboș, „Ștefan Aug. Doinaș despre lirica lui Nichita Stănescu: o lectură - trialectică”, *Critică, eseu*, p.65. Retrieved Mai, 16, 2023, from: <https://g1b2i3.wordpress.com/2008/08/27/cuvintele-sunt-foarte-asemanatoarecu-fiintele-ele-sunt-chiar-fiinte/>.

director Liviu Ciulei. For an actor, reciting a poem written by Nichita Stănescu can be a dangerous adventure and at the same time a breath of oxygen in the nebula of feelings that the artist experiences by the very nature of his job. Each generation perceives poetry in a personal way, be it readers, actors, or researchers. But the exposition of Stănescu's poem, the discourse that includes the poet's personal affective states, his intimate feelings, remains an assumed, intense, alive whole. Outdated conventions are broken, and poetry becomes itself through a liberating gesture that bears the imprint of Nichita Stănescu or simply Nichita (he cannot be confused with any other Romanian poet).

"Poetry is...the cry of an eye that was not invented/ the tear of the eye/ of the one who must be beautiful,/ the tear of the one who must be happy."<sup>8</sup> The study of the artistic pronunciation of Nichita Stănescu's poetry is a laborious process for an actor, the reading of the poems being necessary to be done several times and in several stages. The impulse I felt, at the time I wanted to enter the world, life, state, time and space of Stănescu's poems, directed me to the video and audio materials in which the poet utters his verses. It wasn't just curiosity, it was an attraction, a desire, an exciting curiosity that was born with the familiarization with the lyrics. Thus, I traveled the reverse path of - the actor's work with himself - and the life experience of the poet (the empirical self) conveyed to me the state contained in the message of his poems. "In poetry, general truths can only take place filtered through the poet's personality, thus transfigured."<sup>9</sup> Nichita Stănescu's poetry is a space of confessions where the actor can express himself at the limit of the poetic-philosophical discourse, sliding (but controlled) into an exceptional semantic relationship between the lyrical and the real. For me, Nichita Stănescu's poetry is the safe and rational knowledge of hurting the brain to force the spirit to think using techniques other than the usual ones.

#### 4. Conclusions

The studies carried out on Stănescian poetry include investigations done at an interdisciplinary level. In the case of Nichita Stănescu, it can be said that the visionary poet meets the reader so that, in discovering poetry, he can also discover himself.

Nichita Stănescu's work is as simple as it is complex and its characterization fits into two categories: poetry of poetry, as defined by the critic Eugen Simion. If we talk about the - poet of non-words- we are talking about the time of the 60s, about modernist poetry or Romanian neo modernism, we are talking about an inventor of linguistics and poetics from whom we inherit a modern and valuable work. "Nichita Stănescu reinvented his poetic formula from one volume to another, covering each poetic path to the end and forcing the entire contemporary poetry to experiment with new formulas."<sup>10</sup>

For Nichita Stănescu, life was like a rainbow that appeared after the rain to leave us a legacy of the word and its essence, forever accompanying himself with poetry, this lover who never allowed himself to be completely seduced.

Bored and fed up with his existence, Nichita left, disappeared at the age of 50 or perhaps it would be more appropriate to say he passed away... probably thinking of what he considered to be the most beautiful verse of all time: "I didn't think I'd ever learn to die..."<sup>11</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Nichita, Stănescu, „Poezia”, *Poezii Noștri*. Retrieved Mai, 16, 2023, from: <https://poetii-noștri.ro/nichita-stanescu-poezia-poezie-id-754/>.

<sup>9</sup> Alexandru Philippide. 1968. *Scritorul și arta lui*. București: Editura pentru Literatură, p. 178.

<sup>10</sup> Bogdan, Crețu, „După treizeci de ani. Recitind literatura postbelică”. *Muzeul Național al Literaturii Române*, 29.09.2020 – *Evenimente*. Retrieved 16, Mai, 2023, from: <https://mnlr.ro/dupa-30-de-ani-recitind-literatura-postbelica-cu-bogdan-cretu-despre-poezia-lui-nichita-stanescu-ii/>.

<sup>11</sup> Mihai Eminescu. 2019. *Poezii*. București: Editura Minerva, p. 10.

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