

LE PAYSAGE – A REVIEW

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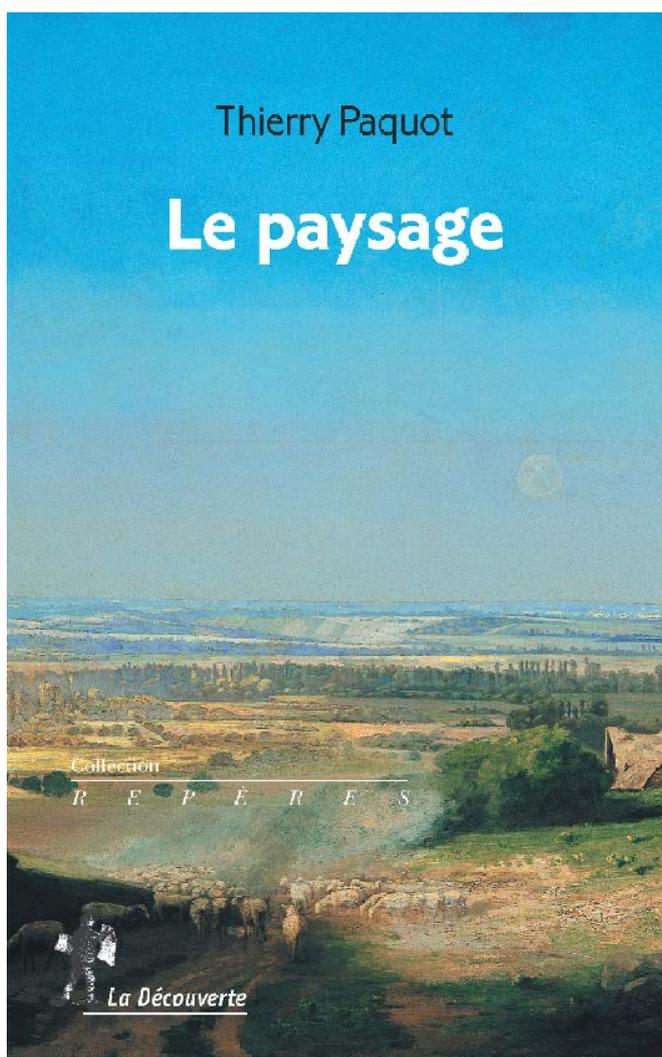
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The book is structured in five chapters that address various landscape interpretations within different fields and specialized literature. The approach of landscape is made etymologically, including the variations in time of the meaning of the term “landscape”. Starting with Geography, the author takes a detour across different fields such as History, Philosophy,

Landscaping, Anthropology, and Philosophy, seeking to discover various points of view and interpretations of landscape. The author highlights the contribution of geographers in shaping the concept of landscape. The significance of landscape has in time exceeded its approach from an agricultural point of view. The landscape evolves along with socio-economic events, giving rise to industrial, religious, political or sound landscape.

The perception of landscape is different and has an emotional load, as demonstrated by the various writings in literature (Victor de la Prade, Daniel Mornet, Albert Dauzat), Geography (Élisée Reclus; cf. Reclus, 2002), Philosophy and Psychology (Frédéric Paulhan), and History (Keith Thomas).

The author makes a retrospective of the concerns about landscape from the point of view of the pollution that has been noticed since the beginning of the 19th century, but also of the globalization that introduces mutations both in the urban areas and in the rural or agricultural ones. The



landscape is thus a challenge for territorial actors. Gradually, gated communities are developed as well as open space offices, parkings, shopping centres, holiday villages, etc.

The author analyses in a comparative manner, between the West (the Occident) and the East (the Orient), the transition from the place of landscape in painting in Antiquity and the Middle Ages, to a landscape approached differently in the era of industrialization, with the diversification of means of transport, mechanization and urbanization on a large scale. The landscape starts to gradually decompose into industrial landscape, of loisir, brownfields, etc.: “Paradoxically, the emergence of the urban landscape is contemporary, as noticed by two different observers, starting from the destruction of city centres, from the development and extension of the periphery that tends to become the dominant element of the city” (Berlan-Darqu e & Kalaora, 1991, p. 89). Paquot (2016, translated from French) states that “the landscape is primarily understood as a concentrate of space-time existential”, hence the importance of studying it through heritagisation.

Heritage gains a number of meanings in the History of Art and Architecture. Urban heritage is a term introduced by the art historian, engineer and architect Gustavo Giovannoni, and about which Fran oise Choay states the following: “the old urban heritage must not be relegated to its museum function; it may be assigned, provided that its new destinations are compatible with morphology, new uses, of proximity, and integrated into urbanism and landscaping plans” (Paquot, 2016, translated from French). But, at the same time, one should not omit that not every urban landscape has the potential for heritage.

The last chapter is dedicated to describing the evolution of landscaping as a professional task, and to its interpretation over time in French culture, including the legislative point of view, but also its approach at the level of other countries. There are also descriptions of jobs that are related to the study of landscape. Last but not least, the author emphasizes the importance of the landscape in the era of globalization and, above all, the ethics of the landscape under the conditions of its preservation, because the landscape is linked to the sense of identity.

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