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< <http://lletra.uoc.edu/en/author/miquel-de-palol> >

## Miquel de Palol



### They Have Said...

Might we distinguish between prose and poetry in Palol? The answer is yes, in a descriptive sense, but not so much if we take into account two basic aspects of his literary

world. First, *El sol i la mort* [The Sun and Death] formally raises the quest for a kind of poetry that I would venture to call syntagma. By this I mean to say that the construction of the verse is not centred so much on its syllabic distribution as on the disposition of the syntagmas of his sentences. Hence he pulls together long periods that frequently end up pushing sentences to the limits of their sense as structure or, on other occasions, evaporate before an infiniteness of meaning, as if they had been poured into some deep and mysterious abyss.

The operation is intelligent because it seeks new ways of expression on the basis of poetic tradition, which is to say of a syllabic harmony that must be established. Palol shifts the classic definition of standard syllabic space to that of "syllabic time" and, as a result, syntagma plays an essential role in his work. [...] The product is verse that tends to lengthiness and enjambement, the long syntactic span that he has been manifesting in his big narrative projects in recent years. We might thus conclude that his passage through prose has been fundamental in his acquiring practice in the direction we have established above. The distinction between prose and poetry fades away, then, and the concepts of rhythm in prose and rhythm in verse have a common denominator: syntagmatic play.

Second, and from the thematic standpoint, we also find points of engagement between the narrative experience of this period and the new collections of poems. In *El sol i la mort*, the vision of the world that is presented is complemented in many ways with the novels *El jardí dels set crepuscles* [The Garden of the Seven Twilights] and *Igur Neblí*. To some extent, one of Palol's merits is his having vitally, intellectually and creatively comprehended postmodernity. [...]

**Vicenç Llorca**, "Deu anys després, torna el Miquel de Palol poeta" [Ten Years on, the Return of Miquel de Palol, the Poet], *El Temps*, Nº. 621 (13 May 1996).

The book (*Les concessions* [The Concessions]), the blackest of Palol's work, is comparable in his literary career with Baltasar Porcel's novel *Lola i els peixos morts* [Lola and the Dead Fishes] in the sense that, with the latter work, a dejected, claustrophobic view of the individual also represented a new direction in Porcel's literary career. If we were once faced with a complex poet working on different stages with playfulness, philosophy, erudition, politics and sex, now we have a narrative of everyday matters, set in the Barcelona neighbourhood of Gràcia. And may the ingenuous reader not be taken in by the back cover: there is nothing kindly or complacent in the portrait Palol offers of humankind. As for the format, if an essentially a protean writer prevailed before, now he is inclining towards synthesis. [...]

The novel, eminently set in dialogue and very well set in dialogue at that does not fit in any "clear line" of Catalan literature. [...] Palol is still intoxicated with the procedures of his extraordinarily powerful narrative vigour.

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**Estanislau Vidal-Folch**, "En volem encara més" [We Want Even More], *El Periódico de Catalunya. Llibres* (20 May 2004).

From the stance of a certain essential scepticism, the author sometimes expresses himself (in *Els proverbis* [The Proverbs]) at the fringes of paradox, taking to an extreme a cultivated cynicism that strives to remove the reader from any kind of conformity with regard to generally-accepted clichés and truths. These are proverbs that fluctuate between aphorism and thought, in the Leopardian sense and that of the French tradition too, in order to bring together ideas on morality, politics and art in a marriage of preferably romantic lineage.

[...] Palol takes off from the idea that all writing is a deed. The commitment, then, does not arise from any one ideology or another, but from the awareness that the text itself already imposes a particular kind of affiliation, intellectual writing or the writing of ideas.

In both art and moral principles, Palol opts to combat the reductive viewpoint of those spirits that swallow truisms without questioning the ideas or making the effort needed for adopting them. He frontally attacks civilising forms without content, and this is sufficient justification for his incorruptible stance.

**Susanna Rafart**, "El temps que s'exposa" [The Times Being Exposed], *Caràcters*, Nº. 26 (January 2004).

In a lecture titled *El punt de vista com a traça del territori* [Point of View As Layout of Territory] Palol turns to an article by Susan Sontag in which she distinguished between writers who base their literature on psychological introspection in order to divine the characters' motives and conflicts, and those who operate with an anti-psychological system, from a position of contempt for the personalities of their characters, enigmatically hiding their nature and their meaning. The former use eloquent analysis as a narrative tool, while the latter are more inclined to the silent image that requires the reader's active participation.

Miquel de Palol, evidently joins the ranks of the latter category after *El jardí dels set crepuscles* and, with this second series of novels, *Exercicis sobre el punt de vista* [Exercises on Viewpoint] where the verbal tangle, the stylistic exploration and complexity of form seem to be less evident in which *Gallifa* is the third instalment, he persists in this way of understanding literary practice. [...] Miquel de Palol opts for transparent, mute images, for a succession of clear episodes in which, one after another, a sensation of irresolvable mystery is created because, at the end of the day, what he does is to silence the elements of meaning, to pass over the core of the story and show just the tip of the iceberg in order to set off the flow of necessary attention. [...] *Gallifa* is an intriguing text that, from its apparent simplicity and with prose that is fast-moving and slapdash as if the fact of writing somehow bothers Palol, who is more prone to shaping unassailable labyrinths than pursuing balanced rhythm, manages to arouse one's curiosity while mistreating the reader with its first-sight opacity.

**Ponç Puigdevall**, "Imatges silencioses" [Silent Images], *El País. Quadern*, (4 May 2004).

According to Raymond Queneau, all Western narrative can be taken back to the two models of *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*. Such a division seems useful when looking through Palol's literary opus which, since his first novels, *El jardí dels set crepuscles* and *Ígur Neblí*, has conformed to this line of demarcation, attributing the weight of history, on the one hand, to the strategies of a group and, on the other, to the deeds of the individual playing the role of hero or antihero.

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In the monumental work, *El Troiacord* [The Troiacord] Palol brings these two streams together, conjugating them according to the rules of the "Joc de la Fragmentació" [Fragmentation Game]. For all the bonus element of specification, the game played by the characters consists in reordering a disintegrated and chaotic universe by means of constructing an elastic and variable system that adapts to changes in the rules. At the basis of this structure there is cohesion arbitrary and mobile, and also with removable roots that is generated by personal relationships, following the foundational model of sexual chains. Here I would venture two considerations. The first is that Palol seems to be embracing as his own the reflections on linguistic games that are to be found in the *Philosophical Investigations* when Wittgenstein wonders where the notion of game goes and where it ends, and what its limits are. [...]

It is not in vain that Palol tends to vindicate in literature, but even more in painting or music, baroque art, the *ubi consistam* from which he extracts the idea of a ceaseless mathematical quest for the order of things. From here proceeds the tendency of this Catalan novelist to fill each text with characters, scenes and action until turning it into a *theatrum mundi*, a vivid and eternally codified representation of existence.

The second consideration lies with sexuality as a gnoseological principle. Palol is a pornographer and there's no point clinging to adjectives that might modify this definition, although, taking everything into account, one should also make the point that, in his work, sex is always a formula for knowledge that explains and modifies power relations.

**Francesco Ardolino**, "Epistemologia sexual" [Sexual Epistemology], *Caràcters*, N<sup>o</sup>. 36 (June 2006).

## A selection of texts

### Text



**WEB: "Aquell estiu del 42"**

Un conte de l'autor publicat dins el recull *Tancat per vacances* (juliol 2003), al web The Barcelona Review.

[http://www.barcelonareview.com/37/c\\_mp.htm](http://www.barcelonareview.com/37/c_mp.htm)



**WEB: Sis poemes**

Miquel de Palol va ser un dels protagonistes del 22è Festival Internacional de Poesia de Barcelona.

<http://www.bcn.cat/cultura/barcelonapoesia/2009/miquel-de-palol.html>



**WEB: Al Daltabaix poètic!**

Dos poemes inèdits de l'autor en aquest web independent de poesia que acull poetes de tendències ben diferents.

<http://www.sant-cugat.net/daltabaix/palol.htm>



**WEB: Publicacions i premis**

El web del Festival de Poesia de Sant Cugat recull una llista d'obres publicades i de premis rebuts, així com una selecció de poemes.

<http://ilma.orgfree.com/poesiasantcugat/palol.htm>

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< <http://lletra.uoc.edu/en/author/miquel-de-palol> >



**WEB: Fragment d'"El sol i la mort"**

A El Poder de la Palabra.

<http://www.epdlp.com/texto.php?id2=2756>



**WEB: Six poems**

Miquel de Palol was one of the leading figures at the 22nd International Festival of Poetry of Barcelona.

<http://www.bcn.cat/cultura/barcelonapoesia/2009/miquel-de-palol.html>

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## Bio-bibliography

### Biography



**WEB: A la Hiperenciclopèdia**

[http://www.enciclopedia.cat/fitxa\\_v2.jsp?NDCHEC=0048708](http://www.enciclopedia.cat/fitxa_v2.jsp?NDCHEC=0048708)



**WEB: Fitxa al "Qui és qui a les lletres catalanes"**

<http://cultura.gencat.net/ilc/qeq/FitxaAutors.asp?nom1=pal&nom2=&cerca=Cerca&quinform=form1&NRegistre=20&idregistre=7337>



**WEB: A la Viquipèdia**

Biografia, referències d'articles i comentaris d'algunes obres de l'autor al web de l'enciclopèdia lliure.

[http://ca.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miquel\\_de\\_Palol\\_Muntanyola](http://ca.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miquel_de_Palol_Muntanyola)



**WEB: The author in the Catalan Encyclopaedia**

<http://www.grec.cat/cgibin/hecangcl2.pgm?&USUARI=&SESSIO=&NDCHEC=0048708&PGMORI=E>



**WEB: Miquel de Palol a l'Institut Ramon Llull**

Nota biobibliogràfica dins l'espai dedicat a la Fira Internacional del Llibre de Guadalajara 2004.

[http://fil04.llull.cat/cat/02protagonistes/palol\\_miquel\\_de.shtm](http://fil04.llull.cat/cat/02protagonistes/palol_miquel_de.shtm)



**WEB: The author in the Who's Who of Catalan Literature**

<http://cultura.gencat.net/ilc/qeq/FitxaAutorsuk.asp?nom1=palol&cercauk2=Search&quinform=form1&NRegistre=2&idregistre=7337>



**WEB: Miquel de Palol in the Ramon Llull Institute**

Biobibliographical note on this author on a page devoted to the Guadalajara International Book Fair.

[http://fil04.llull.cat/eng/02protagonistes/palol\\_miquel\\_de.shtm](http://fil04.llull.cat/eng/02protagonistes/palol_miquel_de.shtm)

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### Bibliography



**WEB: Què hi ha a la Biblioteca de Catalunya**

[http://cataleg.bnc.cat/search\\*cat/?searchtype=a&searcharg=Palol+Miquel+de+1953&sortdropdown=-](http://cataleg.bnc.cat/search*cat/?searchtype=a&searcharg=Palol+Miquel+de+1953&sortdropdown=-)

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&searchscope=13&searchscope2=13&SORT=D



**WEB: Què hi ha a les biblioteques universitàries catalanes (CCUC)**

[http://ccuc.cbuc.es/search~S23\\*cat?/aPalol+Miquel+de/apalol+miquel+de/1%2C2%2C117%2CB/exact&FF=apalol+miquel+de+1953&1%2C91%2C/indexsort=-](http://ccuc.cbuc.es/search~S23*cat?/aPalol+Miquel+de/apalol+miquel+de/1%2C2%2C117%2CB/exact&FF=apalol+miquel+de+1953&1%2C91%2C/indexsort=-)



**WEB: Què hi ha a les biblioteques públiques**

<http://argus.biblioteques.gencat.cat/iii/encore/search/C|SPalol%2C+Miquel+de%2C++1953-|Orightresult?lang=cat&suite=pearl>



**WEB: Per comprar-ne llibres**

<http://www.llibres.cat/ca/detall-autor/palol-i-muntanyola-miquel-de/>



**WEB: Articles de l'autor (Traces)**

<http://traces.uab.cat/search?f=author&p=Palol%20Miquel%20de&sc=1&ln=ca>



**WEB: Articles sobre l'autor (Traces)**

[http://traces.uab.cat/search?ln=ca&p=Palol%2C+Miquel+de&f=keyword&action\\_search=Cerca&c=Traces+%3A+base+de+dades+de+llengua+i+literatura+catalanes&sf=&so=d&rm=&rg=10&sc=1&of=hb](http://traces.uab.cat/search?ln=ca&p=Palol%2C+Miquel+de&f=keyword&action_search=Cerca&c=Traces+%3A+base+de+dades+de+llengua+i+literatura+catalanes&sf=&so=d&rm=&rg=10&sc=1&of=hb)



**WEB: Works in the Biblioteca de Catalunya**

[http://cataleg.bnc.cat/search\\*eng/?searchtype=a&searcharg=Palol+Miquel+de+1953&sortdropdown=-&searchscope=13&searchscope2=13&SORT=D](http://cataleg.bnc.cat/search*eng/?searchtype=a&searcharg=Palol+Miquel+de+1953&sortdropdown=-&searchscope=13&searchscope2=13&SORT=D)



**WEB: The author in The European Library**

<http://search.theeuropeanlibrary.org/portal/en/search/%28%22creator%22+all+%22palol+miquel+de%22%29.query>



**WEB: The author in the Congress Library (US)**

<http://catalog.loc.gov/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?DB=local&PAGE=First>



**WEB: The author in the COPAC Catalogue (UK)**

<http://copac.ac.uk/search?&au=Miquel+de+Palol>

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## Comments on the author

### Criticism



**WEB: Anatomia 2004/2005**

Miquel de Palol és un dels convidats al balanç anual que organitza lletrA.

<http://www.uoc.edu/lletra/anatomia2004/index.htm>



**WEB: Miquel de Palol a l'AELC**

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Inclou biografia, premis, obra, referències crítiques i entrevistes.

<http://www.escriptors.cat/autors/palolm/>



**WEB: L'autor al Corpus Literari Ciutat de Barcelona**

Biografia, enllaços i transcripció d'articles sobre Palol.

[http://www.ducros.biz/corpus/index.php?command=show\\_news&news\\_id=2129](http://www.ducros.biz/corpus/index.php?command=show_news&news_id=2129)



**WEB: Miquel de Palol on the lletrA website in Catalan**

Including more resources.

<http://www.lletra.cat/noms/miqueldepalol/index.html>



**WEB: Anatomy 2004/2005**

Miquel de Palol is invited to participate in the annual stocktaking organised by lletrA.

<http://www.uoc.edu/lletra/anatomia2004/index.htm>



**WEB: Miquel de Palol in AELC (Association of Catalan Language Writers)**

Includes biography, prizes, works, critical references and interviews.

[http://www.escriptors.cat/autors/palolm/pagina.php?id\\_sec=1704](http://www.escriptors.cat/autors/palolm/pagina.php?id_sec=1704)



**WEB: Miquel de Palol in the City of Barcelona Literary Corpus**

Biography, links and transcription of articles on this author.

[http://www.ducros.biz/corpus/index.php?command=show\\_news&news\\_id=2129](http://www.ducros.biz/corpus/index.php?command=show_news&news_id=2129)

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## Miscellaneous



**WEB: Invocacions**

Presentació d'*Invocacions* de Valentí Gómez i Miquel de Palol, produït per Ara tv.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T\\_KwHsReQNQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T_KwHsReQNQ)



**WEB: "Strindberg retrona"**

Poema de Tomas Ekström llegit en català per Palol al XIIIè Seminari de traducció poètica, a YouTube.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kJz69zsdP3c>



**PDF: Biobibliografia de l'autor**

Breu biografia, premis obtinguts i ressenya de les seves obres al web de la Biblioteca de la UPC. En format PDF.

[http://biblioteca.upc.es/cienciaficcio/premi\\_upc/catala/2004/biografia.pdf](http://biblioteca.upc.es/cienciaficcio/premi_upc/catala/2004/biografia.pdf)



**WEB: In Wikipedia in German**

Biography, bibliography, references to articles and commentaries on Palol's work on the website of the free encyclopaedia.

[http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miquel\\_de\\_Palol](http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miquel_de_Palol)

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**WEB: Invocacions [Invocations]**

Presentation of *Invocacions* by Valentí Gómez and Miquel de Palol, produced by Ara TV.  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T\\_KwHsReQNQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T_KwHsReQNQ)



**WEB: "Strindberg retrona" [Strindberg Resounds]**

Poem by Tomas Ekström read in Catalan by Palol at the 13th Seminary on Poetry Translation. On YouTube.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kJz69zsdP3c>



**WEB: Virtual exhibition "800 Years of Catalan Literature"**

Digital exhibition by the Institució de les Lletres Catalanes (Institute of Catalan Letters) on Catalan literature through the ages.

<http://cultura.gencat.net/ilc/literaturacatalana800/en/index58284.htm>



**WEB: Guest at Kosmopolis International Festival of Literature (CCCB ` Centre of Contemporary Culture of Barcelona)**

Includes a brief biography of Palol.

<http://www.cccb.org/kosmopolis/en/participant?idg=10597>



**WEB: Palol, guest at Internationales Literaturfestival Berlin 2008**

Includes a brief biography of the author.

[http://www.literaturfestival.com/bios1\\_3\\_6\\_1369.html](http://www.literaturfestival.com/bios1_3_6_1369.html)



**WEB: Miquel de Palol: "Tothom té dret a posar bigotis a la Gioconda"**

Entrevista d'Ada Castells a Miquel de Palol publicada a l'*Avui* (26/01/03).

[http://www.ducros.biz/corpus/index.php?command=show\\_news&news\\_id=2142](http://www.ducros.biz/corpus/index.php?command=show_news&news_id=2142)



**WEB: Palol al bloc d'El Llibreter**

Ressenya d'algunes obres de l'autor en aquest bloc.

<http://llibreter.blogspot.com/2005/03/miquel-de-palol-maquina-un-pla.html>