



MELANCHOLY AND BOREDOM

The paper I would like to present is an attempt at determining the relationship between the notions of melancholy and boredom. Quite accurately, Elizabeth S. Godstein draws attention to the way a cultural and historical context determine the phenomena in question; for what she calls "a rhetoric of reflection" makes a particular appellation - melancholy, neurasthenia, boredom, or depression to name just a few - apposite to the social and cultural conditioning of the subject. While melancholy persists in its representations as a multi-faceted and an ontological element of one's reflective being in the world, boredom emerged only a few centuries ago to designate the condition - or experience - that the modern subject finds themselves in: an industrialized world. Following the introduction and subsequent institutionalization of psychiatric discourse, another notion surfaced: depression, which became prevalent in the times of "liquid modernity . " It seems that the phenomenon referred to by these varied terms is long- established, however, its history testifies to different interpretations ascribed to it depending on the times one lives in.