

AGAINST IRONY

IRONY is *a deliberate strategy* intended merely to create distance, to be able to look the other way, to avoid viewing the essence of visual art, literature, theory or opinion — as creator or spectator — in its direct form.

IRONY is *a tactic employed by the lazy, cowardly and idle*. It is an attempt, a *wish*, to escape judgment on what is said, written or done: it was after all intended *from a distance*, with an artificial smile, a grotesque slight curling of the lips which *feigns* insight, but in actuality expresses nothing more than *inability*: inability to make a statement and assume full responsibility for doing so.

IRONY is *an expression of fear* and, at the same time, a *gratuitous display of ostensible intelligence*. It stands, on the one hand, for the wish to remain a *spectator*, the suggestion of neutrality, and, on the other hand, for the will to nonetheless be *recognised* as having an opinion or a standpoint. It is a *facade*: the confirmation of not wanting to stand face to face with the complex network that, in a few brave instances, one dares to call *reality*.

IRONY is *a diversion* that leaves improper room for the observer to distance himself, room that the observer fills with ironic *reflection*, which overshadows any genuine contemplation. It is the means used in approaching a matter so as not to be subjected to its full implication: out of fear, laziness, boredom.

IRONY is *a worthless choice* of juxtaposing a message with an opposite image or an opposite statement, with a negative tone or dismissive gesture, which leaves everyone's stance undisputed, and yet expresses that *one has understood it*: how shameless! Shameless because, in doing so, one gives preference to the indisputability of an idea or status above an actual critical approach of the parameters with which we approach the world.

IRONY is *a trick*. It insinuates the presence of potential meaning and negates it at the very same time. It is nothing other than an *escape*, a *fear*: a fear, in fact, of standing unconditionally behind a recognition, a declaration, of previously mentioned parameters: a fear of actually committing to this statement or, at least, to *the importance of making a statement as an act in itself*.

How shameless!