

Preface

Parenthesis, as a figure of speech and a structure of thought, provides an original insight into classical reception studies. By employing the analogy of the parenthesis, the received past is viewed as inserted *into* the present while remaining somehow *apart from* the present; in this sense, Graeco-Roman antiquity is considered as being simultaneously ‘in’ and ‘to the side of’ the receptive work. Along these lines, parenthesis becomes a heuristic tool that brings to the fore the dialogue between ancient and modern cultures across various artistic media (literature, theatre, visual arts and cinema) and disciplines (philosophy, scholarship and translation).

This was the working hypothesis of the 17th *Trends in Classics* International Conference held in Thessaloniki on June 1–3, 2023; the proceedings of this conference are presented in the volume at hand. The 22 chapters of the volume are authored by scholars specializing in classics, comparative literature, art history and philosophy. The chapters are preceded by a concise Introduction on the theoretical framework of the ‘parentheses of reception’.

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