



## “I dare not say body”

Disfigurement and the aesthetics of formlessness

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Abstract: In *Les Chants de Maldoror*, figuration is paradoxically linked to a principle of disfigurement: the literary descriptions of violence against bodies appear on a metafictional level as the flipside of an aesthetic violence exerted against form itself. In this way, (dis)figuration becomes a process that is both creative and destructive, a perpetual work on forms in favor of the emergence of the formless.

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