

**On Being (Social), Selfhood, and the Creative Experience in the Digital Age in Clara Janés' *Vilanos (E-mails)* (2004)**

**Abstract:** Clara Janés intertwines contemporary e-communication and Spanish medieval mysticism to envision the texture of social experience, selfhood, and creativity in the digital age. *Vilanos (E-mails)* invokes e-mailing's mystical dimensions: cyberspace's effacement of time and space and the cybernetic undoing of the self. Interrogating encounters with electronic *otherness* in the cybernetic void, a digitized form of spiritual pilgrimage emerges, encompassing a search for self-knowledge and aesthetic intuition. Confronting the limitations of social connection through technological mediation, the digital's invitation to self-encounter, nevertheless, can reveal the aleatory complexities of the self, cosmos, and poetry itself, characterized by indeterminacy and constant movement.

**Key Words:** Poetry, mysticism, electronic communication, social experience, selfhood, creative experience, knowledge, digital age, *Vilanos (E-mails)*, Clara Janés.