

# Thoughts Out of Season

Occasional Reviews & Notes  
Of Mutual Interest  
Compiled by Tim & Terry Forward

## Form, Content & Mist



Edouard Manet, *The Old Musician* (1862)

THE WAY THE STORYTELLER tells the story is not something added after the story has already been constructed. Expression – the particular, its urgency or lethargy, whether the teller meanders in loquacious verbosity or shoots the story out in clipped bullet points – is absolutely integral to the words, phrases, and sentences used. The playful tension within the retelling's communal voice is the prime site of narrative creativity. [Walter] Benjamin<sup>1</sup> presents the storyteller as a model of expressive form and mimetic nature.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Walter Bendix Schönflies Benjamin (1892 – 1940) was a German Jewish philosopher, cultural critic and essayist. Among Benjamin's best known works are the essays "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction" (1935). In 1940, at the age of 48, Benjamin committed suicide at Portbou on the French-Spanish border while attempting to escape from the Wehrmacht invading France.

<sup>2</sup> Fumi Okiji, *Jazz and Critique Adorno and Black Expression Revisited*. (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2018) 73.