Non-Conceptual Negativity: Damaged Reflections on Turkey

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Do you recall Penthesilea? The Amazonian warrior in Heinrich von Kleist’s play of the same title? A fractured representation of being a subject? Penthesilea is constructed neither as a full opponent of patriarchy nor as a passive subject crushed under unbridled masculinity. She has opened up a space for herself by shuttling between patriarchal and anti-patriarchal discourses and outraged all the epistemological and gender stabilities with her ironical language full of dualities and competing conflicts. It is as if Kleist had aimed at shaking the theory of representation of the Enlightenment down to its moralistic and ideological foundations in order to create a plane which cannot be constructed, where painting is impossible.