

## The In-Between Lines of Modernity in Salvador Novo's *El Joven* (By Rafael Yaxal Sánchez Vega)

Salvador Novo's *El joven* (1925) –together with *La Señorita Etcétera* by Arqueles Vela– can be considered a true witness of the early incursion of the Spanish-American avant-garde. It is a capsule of the 20s wherein it is possible to perceive the beginnings of the rhythm of modern thinking combining information, erudition, intelligence, prose experimentation, classic culture, daily life, technological actuality, Siglo de Oro, etc. The city, holder of this jungly diversity, characteristic of a paradigm in the making, is the fundamental narrative element of composition in *El joven*. The protagonist, an authentic flâneur, crosses the city space and dismembers it bit by bit in order to rearrange it afterwards and make of it a Cubist painting. Through this, it can be argued, the characteristics of modernity in the novel are unraveled by the figure of the stroller and the city.

Key words: flâneur, avant-garde, city, modernity, Mexican novel.