Abstract – It is difficult to determine the statute of the philosophy of literature – a field of study that is becoming increasingly popular. It often remains a methodological and disciplinary abyss that well expresses a certain analytical philosophy in not considering literature, and more generally art, as a place and object of thought. In other words, the idea that science – even philosophical science – is analytical by definition while literature is non-scientific by definition still endures. Yet, common sense warns that there is something profoundly unfair in this distinction if we consider that so much of our knowledge of the historical, social, cultural, and sometimes even scientific world depends on narratives, especially those that make up literature. Here I would like to try to argue a different possibility based on a personal elaboration of American pragmatism and starting from the text Lives of the Saints by Nino Ricci, an excellent example of the literature of dispatriation which is gaining the attention it deserves. This possibility of reading is based on a modal metaphysical realism which enables the writer, through his literary creative “gesture”, to allow some possibilities of reality to be known. Possibilities that an analytical eye is not able to grasp.

Keywords: Nino Ricci, Lives of the Saints, esperienza, realismo, gesto, conoscenza, scrittura creativa