

Differencing the Canon: Feminism and the Writing of Art's Histories (Revisions, Critical **Studies in the History and Theory of Art)**

By Griselda Pollock



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In this major book, Griselda Pollock engages boldly in the culture wars over `what is the canon?` and `what difference can feminism make?` Do we simply reject the all-male line-up and satisfy our need for ideal egos with an all women litany of artistic heroines? Or is the question a chance to resist the phallocentric binary and allow the ambiguities and complexities of desire - subjectivity and sexuality - to shape the readings of art that constantly displace the present gender demarcations?



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Review

...Pollock deesentializes the category woman, here well described as a fiction of the canon that erases class and race in the modernist movement--a rubbing-out that feminist art history can write back in.

-SIGNS

[A] keen critique of the canon as a gendered and gendering institution intent on excluding those who differ from its hegemonic structure of European male power.

-RACAR

The flow of the book is wondrous, as Pollack builds each new idea onto the next, rounded out with rigorous research.

-Foreword, 4/99

...a densely woven text of art, literature, history, and theory... powerful... rewarding.

-Steven Z. Levine, Bryn Mawr College, Woman's Art Journal, Spring/Summer 2001

About the Author

Griselda Pollock is Professor of Social and Critical Histories of Art, and Director of the Centre for Cultural Studies at the University of Leeds. She is the author of Vision and Difference (1988) and editor of Generations and Geographies in the Visual Arts (1996), both published by Routledge.

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