

WL New York Review of Books

Vol. XIX, #1 Nov. 30, 1972

Adrienne Rich Anti-Feminists

Adrienne Rich's books of poems are . . . She is visiting Fannie Hurst Professor of Creative Literature at Brandeis this year.

This is very professed review of a very shallow book. Instead of limiting herself to the stupidities of Judge Doctor, she actually shows that even that sole chauvinist had to ~~read~~ mind when he wrote of "lone" progress women ~~in~~ in their society.

Anya Bostock in the BBC Third Programme, The Listener, August
She happens to quote Beauvoir taking back her last
paragraph from Second Sex which evidently appeared in Ec.,
July, 1972. (Elizabeth Gould Davis, The First Sex, Putnam,
1971, Penguin, 1972) also wrote as a woman in history, Mary
Beard, 1945) (Jinda Thurston in The Second Wave, Vol I, #2,
published by Female liberation in Boston, Summer, 1972)
Phyllis Chesler, Women and Madness

"Again and again, as I read the literature of the women's movement, I am struck by courageous imaginations that are now trying to go further than feminism has gone before: to grapple with immediate political necessities; with the emotional imprints of the culture; with the great weight of patriarchal scholarship in need of reevaluation; with much lost and blotted-out history and biography, archaeology and anthropology; and with a sense that time, in the sense of human survival, is running out." (AB)

Arienne Rich is good also by showing how, precisely because women have "lodged in it may be in some collective unconscious" man's fears, guilt, and hostility towards them makes them potentially the deepest of all questioners of the social order created by men and the most genuinely radical of all thinkers".

One of the consequences of living in a world intellectually dominated by men is that women try to have opinions which will satisfy the approved standards of the world; and in the last analysis, these are standards imposed on them by men. Which is to say, means that our opinions are kept fairly rigorously separated from our own lived experience. If a woman today wants to have opinions which are truly her own, she has to check them against her personal experience alone, but against a collective one.

"...the master's government is unwilling to imagine and re-create a more natural environment for the process of becoming a mother, an artist, an originator, a human-being. The loneliness of the present man is an affliction fit for the loneliness of all life-expanding intuition in a society created not of the triumph of force the will." —
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Adrienne Rich Anti-Pessimists

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This is very profound review of a very shallow book. Instead of limiting herself to the stupidities of Alice Becker, she actually shows that even that mild charwoman had to ~~find when she writes~~ ^{in the library} "time of program".

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"Again and again, as I read the literature of the women's movement, I am struck by courageous imaginations that are now trying to go further than feminism has gone before: to grapple with immediate political necessities with the emotional imprints of the culture; with the great weight of patriarchal scholarship in need of reevaluation; with much lost and blotted-out history and biography, archaeology and anthropology; and with a sense that time, in the sense of human survival, is running out." (AR)

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One of the consequences of living in a world intellectually dominated by men is that women try to have opinions which will satisfy the approved standards of the world, and in the last analysis, these standards imposed on them by men, which in practice means that our opinions are kept fairly rigorously separated from our own lived experience. If a woman today wants to have opinions which are truly her own, she has to check them against her experience, and often not against her personal experience alone, but against a collective one!

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marks look & hillier by
imbecile flat nose like
great god in other
W.M.W. grecy

Time is
very
firm

... the women's movement is struggling to imagine and re-create a more natural environment for the process of becoming a mother, an artist, an originator, a human being. The loneliness of the pregnant woman is an archetype of the loneliness of all life-expanding impulses, recently created out of the triumph of force over will." (AR)

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