

Summaries of articles

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[See table of contents](#)

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SUMMARIES OF ARTICLES

Building Barriers :

Images of women in Canada's architectural press, 1924-1973

Annmarie Adams

While women have made significant headway in establishing themselves within the male-dominated architectural profession, their representations today remain relatively muted. The significance of contemporary representations of women in architecture can be understood by looking at representations of them in national professional periodicals such as the journal of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada's, which we studied from 1924 till 1973. Our survey suggests that in this journal women were portrayed as passive users of space, while male architects were shown as active and quintessentially masculine. It also shows also how Canadian women architects made vital contributions to the field from their albeit peripheral positions as students, sculptors, decorators, illustrators, journalists, critics and preservationists. These representations have shaped women's careers in architecture and continue to have implications on their presence within the profession today.

Freud's representations of women. An historical, psychoanalytic and contemporary feminist analysis

Maryse Barbance

Three objectives are at the base of this article. First, we will look at Freud's correspondance identifying his conscious representations of women and situating them in the context of his time, particularly with regard to medical doctors and Jewish Austrian bourgeois men. We will then proceed to examine Freud's unconscious representations (or *imagos*) of women as they can be found in his *L'Interprétation des rêves*, of which we also present some personal interpretations. Finally, based on hypothesis developed by contemporary feminist psychoanalysts, we will look at how the unconscious representation, which are determined by gender relations, uphold Freud's conscious representations of women and how this can explain their resilience.

Woman as model and «other» in visual art representation

Marie Carani

In the history of Western art of the 19th and 20th centuries, images of women in the arts have been defined by coded signs putting forward sexist post-renaissance ideas of them as submissive, passive and sexually pleasurable to the exclusive look and desires of men. Vanguard modernist women artists of this century, which were rediscovered by feminist art historians after 1970, questioned these voyeuristic patriarchal stereotypes as well as the iconographic and esthetic/stylistic models representing women. Worldwide as well as in Quebec, young postmodern women artists have finally transformed this parallel history of feminine and/or feminist artistic practices and have recently engaged in a reappropriation of their psychological and sexual beings.

Alice goes to the movie, or how to muzzle the feminist novel

Christiane Lahaie

Turning a novel into a film is never easy, especially when the novel is a feminist one. In that case, narrative structures may express subversion through female protagonists' discourse or non-discourse. But does the difficulty result from the medium's limitations, or from dominant cinematic habits which usually depict women solely as objects of male discourse ? An analysis of *Laura Laur* by Suzanne Jacob and its cinematographic

version by Brigitte Sauriol, as well as of *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood and Volker Schlöndorff's movie, should allow us to verify the following hypothesis : Laura Laur and Offred, two exceptionnal fictional protagonists, become victims of underexposure when becoming stars of the big screen.

Moitié Moitié on the screens :

Public funds attribution to the Quebec audiovisual industry

Estelle Lebel and Colette Beauchamp

The article is intended to show the discriminatory nature of the discourse which advocates untrammelled exercise of talent as an objective factor for the allocation of monies to film directors by public funding agencies. The analysis is based on progress made with respect to the presence of women directors, on employment equity measures instigated by women in the industry, and on paradoxical reactions on the part of funding agencies and political decision-makers.

Body and fiction to be reinvented :

Motherhood metamorphosis in Québec women's writing

Lori Saint-Martin

Absent or silenced in most women's writing until quite recently, the mother has become a major force in some recent Quebec novels, speaking at last as a subject in her own right. This article examines three novels – Monique La Rue's *La cohorte fictive* (1979), Madeleine Ouellette-Michalska's *La maison Tröstler* (1984), and Élise Turcotte's *Le bruit des choses vivantes* (1991) – which propose innovative models for female creativity and articulate an ethics and an aesthetics based on motherhood as a lived experience.

Popular literature in Quebec : women and work since 1945

Julia Bettinotti, Paul Bleton, Marie-José des Rivières et Denis Saint-Jacques

In this note, we present the outlines of a research project bearing on the relationship between broad social changes affecting Quebec women's condition since 1945 and the most widely read types of fiction aimed at the feminine market. We take into consideration four main classes of publications : serial novels circulated before the 1960, short stories published in magazines, espacilly in *La revue moderne* and *Châtelaine*, best sellers written for women, and, last but not least, sentimental novels, in particular *Harlequin* romances. Contrary to well entrenched beliefs, this research tends to show that mass culture does not have only negative impact on social change.

The scientific literature on older women at work and in retirement

Hélène David

This research note summarizes the main findings of an analytical bibliography on work, retirement and older women containing more than two hundred titles. The aim was to identify both gains that have been made and shortcomings due to persistant sexism in such works. This field is nonetheless a growing and changing one in which feminist research concerns are beginning to link up with those related to women and aging. This research note also suggests priorities for further research.