

The Monthly Rag

Brought to you by the Feminist and Gender Studies Interns

Block IV 2009

Feminism to me is a pair of glasses in which one can see the world. Each person has a series of different glasses he or she chooses to put on during their lifetime. This is similar to someone being an environmentalist, capitalist, communist, psychologist or any other "ist" you can think of. The decision to switch ones glasses is a part of human nature and helps a person grow into a mature being. For a feminist, it is difficult to take these glasses off. They are pretty much like contacts: You have to literally extract them. The movies you watch, the books you read, the way teenagers walk around a mall will all inform the way you think about the world. Making the choice to keep those glasses ready at any moment (or even to never take them off) is the life of a feminist.

~Alegra Roybal, English Major 2011

Dynamic Womyn

Dynamic womyn possess infinite levels of moods and intentions that provide them with clarity in different situations.

Dynamic womyn do not act the exact same way everyday.

They are not stagnant. They are infinitely adaptable (to new situations).

Dynamic womyn are unpredictable, not by nature, but just so complex that it takes much more than a look to figure them out.

Dynamic womyn are not contemptuous; they just know what they want and have high expectations.

To be a dynamic woman is not to be arbitrary and spontaneous, but to execute a manner that is so well engineered that it only appears to be unintentional.

To be a dynamic woman takes skill and practice. You must be open to understanding the truth that is your feelings and accept that there are somethings about yourself that you cannot explain.

~A. D., Biology Major 2011

Women have been taught that, for us, the earth is flat, and that if we venture out, we will fall off the edge. Some of us have ventured out nevertheless, and so far we have not fallen off. It is my faith, my feminist faith, that we will not.

~Andrea Dworkin

Leonora Carrington — Last Living Surrealist

Carrington has written a myriad of articles, novels, essays, and poems. She has produced thousands of paintings, sculptures, collages, and a number of tapestries. She has also made many public appearances. One in particular, was the women's movement in the early 1970's, where she spoke about women's legendary powers and the need for women to take back the rights that belonged to them all along.

~Julie Byrd, *Les Femmes Surrealistes*

Feminists often view surrealism as a fundamentally male movement. It is believed to adopt archaic attitudes toward women, such as worshipping them symbolically through stereotypes and sexist norms. Women are often made to represent higher values and transformed into objects of desire and of mystery. Carrington on the other hand drew on mythological and religious symbols in her interpretation of women as the center of creativity and nature in her creation of feminist surreal paintings.

~Andi Ruybal, Psychology Major 2011

I'm tough, I'm ambitious, and I know exactly what I want. If that makes me a bitch, okay.

~Madonna Ciccone

I was very fortunate to take Feminist and Gender Studies (FGS) classes for my FYE. I learned a lot about people with different backgrounds who have and still are being treated unfairly because they have chosen not to conform to the patriarchal norms of society. The biggest lesson I have learned from my FGS classes is that someone can exist outside of the standard. There are people or things that can completely turn a generalization on it's head, and one would do a serious disservice to that atypical existence by putting it in another social schema. It is okay to see something as different, and that different is okay.

~Elijah Douresseau, English Major 2013

Two Women Win the Prestigious 2009 Nobel Prize

The 2009 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine will go to three Americans who discovered telomeres, the genetic code that protects the ends of chromosomes, and telomerase, the enzyme that assists in this process, both are findings important in the study of cancer, aging, and stem cells.

The three geneticists—Elizabeth Blackburn, a professor of biology and physiology at the University of California, San Francisco, Carol Greider, a professor in the department of molecular biology and genetics at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, and Jack Szostak, a professor of genetics at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, who are all previous *Scientific American* authors—will split the award of \$1.4 million, along with the prestige and honor.

This is the first time in the prize's 108-year history that more than one woman has been awarded the prize in medicine in a single year. Only eight other women have won the medical Nobel.

<http://www.scientificamerican.com>

Do you have a question? Are there things about feminism and gender that you don't understand? Do you want to know about resources, or want more info about something in our publication? Contact Andi:

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