

Foreword

TESSERA is an editorial collective committed to publishing theoretical and experimental writing of Québécois and English-Canadian feminists in the form of creative texts, theoretical texts, or texts that cross genre boundaries. Each issue is published in a different host journal, and we thank CV 2 for giving over this issue to TESSERA.

In this issue, which takes a look at the state of current feminist critical theory in Quebec and English Canada, we are making room for writing which is neither overtly theoretical nor written in the usual discursive forms of theoretical texts. The implications of feminist critical theory, particularly of studies of women's entry into language, are now informing much poetry and fiction being written by women in English Canada (and have so informed the poetry and fiction of Québécoise writers for a decade now). So this issue displays a formal variety of texts, ranging from the poetic genre collages of Donna Smyth and Marlene Nourbese Philip to the free play with dictionary form of Jam Ismail. It embraces critical texts that range from passionate analysis (Madeleine Gagnon) to academic parody (Julia Emberley). And our topics range from a feminist analysis of Denys Arcand's film, *The Decline of the American Empire* (Louky Bersianik), to the face-off between feminist writing and traditional "malestream" criticism (Louise Cotnoir).

From now on, TESSERA plans to continue publishing feminist poetry and fiction as well as film theory.

We would like to thank Maureen Nicholson, our managing editor, who has left for a permanent position in the Prison Education Programme at SFU, and to welcome Barbara Brown as our new managing editor. We also welcome Susan Knutson who joins Gail Scott, Barbara Godard, Kathy Mezei, and Daphne Marlatt on the editorial collective.

For helping us to publish this issue, we thank the Publications Committee at Simon Fraser University, the Departments of English at Simon Fraser University and York University.

Janice Williamson asks us to acknowledge that the graphic design on p. 97 in her piece "Tell-Tale Signs" in TESSERA 3, CANADIAN FICTION MAGAZINE #57, was by Christine Davis. And speaking of the the CFM issue, we apologize to TESSERA subscribers for the lateness of TESSERA 3. Unfortunately CFM ran into difficulties and this issue was delayed a year.

Daphne Marlatt and Kathy Mezei