



A France culture podcasts : Why read Monique Wittig, she affirmed that « lesbians are not women » ?

Twenty years ago, the lesbian theorist and activist Monique Wittig passed away, leaving behind a body of work that has yet to be discovered, in particular her book "Straight mind". What is this thought? Who determines our representations and our ideas? And why do lesbians escape it?

With Natacha Chetcuti-Osorovitz sociologist, teacher-researcher at ENS Paris-Saclay.

January 3, 2003: Monique Wittig, writer and lesbian revolutionary, disappears. In a relative indifference. Strange, if one believes the very current scope of her theses on heterosexuality and "straight mind". Logical if one believes her theses on heterosexuality and "straight mind".

Because, yes, what Monique Wittig wanted, it is not feminism, which is built around "the-woman", this ideological entity falsely natural, but of a new society, without marks of kind, without category of sex. A lesbian society.

But why the lesbians would not be women according to Wittig? And how, then, all to become lesbians ?

Monique Wittig: heiress of the materialist and Marxist theories

"Monique Wittig is inspired first of all by the materialist theories which do not question the existence of the sexes but study, in a Marxist framework, the relations of domination between the categories of gender. It comes to denounce the strategy of patriarchy, but then calls for denouncing this very concept, as it would not account for the heterosocial regime that is the root of differentiation and therefore of hierarchization between men and women." Natacha Chetcuti-Osorovitz

Differentiation: to determine or to be determined

"Monique Wittig criticizes gendered differentiation because the characteristics of otherness, in this case of the woman, are determined by the dominant, by the man. One could adopt this critique in any hegemonic framework: racism, validism..." Natacha Chetcuti-Osorovitz

The totalizing dimension of language

"If we consider that there is a female writing, then we consider that this work does not fit into the majority literature, that it is different. This is what Monique Wittig criticizes, this totalizing, and therefore excluding, dimension that language can adopt." Natacha Chetcuti-Osorovitz

<https://www.radiofrance.fr/franceculture/podcasts/sans-oser-le-demander/pourquoi-lire-monique-wittig-celle-qui-affirmait-que-les-lesbiennes-ne-sont-pas-des-femmes-5552683>