



## Special Section: (Re)presenting Women, the Female, and the Feminine



The editors have taken this opportunity to feature four articles that investigate the ways in which women are embodied by, or embody in themselves, the social, cultural, or political ethos of a particular era or region. Although very different in both topic and approach, these articles discuss radically new ways of approaching discussions of women, their sexuality, and notions of the feminine in historical discourse.

The first of these articles, by Rachel Mesch, discusses the ways in which conservative, popular women's magazines and fiction in France challenged fin de siècle feminism while simultaneously presenting women as having power within the circumscribed roles advocated by conservative politics. W. Brian Newsome looks at women and their domestic environments in mid-twentieth-century France, investigating how changes in housing aesthetics and the creation of planned villages after World War II changed women's interactions with their communities and environments. Anne Krogstad and Aagoth Storvik move into the twenty-first century, presenting images of female political figures in France and Scandinavia that illustrate the ways in which professional women have recently challenged male conventions regarding the association between female self-presentation and sexuality, and power. Finally, Vicki L. Eaklor investigates and analyzes the presentation of lesbians and same-sex relationships in current Hollywood cinema, through the lens of the film *The Kids Are All Right*.

All four of these articles employ, from a feminist perspective, new methodologies and new ways of thinking about the ways in which the depiction and presentation of women and the feminine have changed, and the ways in which conventional, even archaic notions, still persist.

