

**Title:**

**Feminism and Postmodernism**

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**Issue Date:**

1989

**Publisher:**

Dovehouse Editions

**Citation:**

Hutcheon, Linda. "Feminism and Postmodernism." Donna: Women in Italian Culture. Ed. Ada Testaferri. Ottawa: Dovehouse Editions, 1989. 25-37.

**Abstract (summary):**

I would like to begin today by outlining briefly the particular conjunction of the personal and the professional that has led to my interest in the overlap (or interaction) of feminism and postmodernism. My current research has been into what I have been calling the "poetics" of postmodernism, the points at which aesthetic practice and our theoretical discourses (philosophical, literary, historical) overlap. My idea is that all these points we can see the common denominators that characterize our culture and to which we seem determined to give the wretchedly ambiguous label: postmodernist. If ever there was a four-letter word in the history of literature, it must be that free-standing, wonderfully contradictory prefix POST.

**Description:**

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**URI:**

<http://hdl.handle.net/1807/9503>

**ISBN:**

0919473547

**Keywords:**

[feminism](#); [postmodernism](#); [culture](#); [literature](#)

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Feminism and Postmodernism I would of lap has the the (or been points like personal interaction) into at what which to begin and the of today by outlining that and been practice overlap. briefly has led the to particular my interest My "poetics" theoretical is that all our ambiguous in the history of current conjunction in the over-. professional feminism. postmodernism. the and My that our idea. research. I have aesthetic historical). calling. postmodernism, discourses these culture label: of (philopoints and postwe to. Feminist postmodernism once read as an oxymoron, and postmodern feminism still has an uncertain valence. Craig Owens wrote his nowclassic article "The Discourse of 4. See "SocialCriticismwithoutPhilosophy:An Encounterbetween Feminismand Postmodernism,"in Theory,Cultureand Society 5, nos. 2-3 (1988): 373-94. Introduction: Feminism and Postmodernism or The Way We Live Now / Jennifer Wicke and Margaret Ferguson 1. Postmodern Identities and the Politics of the (Legal) Subject / Jennifer Wicke 10. Feminism and Postmodernism- Another View / Mary Poovey 34. Feminisms and Feminizations in the Postmodern / David Simpson 53. Feminism and the Politics of Postmodernism / Linda Nicholson 69. Ambiguity and Alienation in The Second Sex / Toril Moi 86.

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