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Women, The New York School, And Other True Abstractions



Synopsis

Maggie Nelson provides the first extended consideration of the roles played by women in and around the New York School of poets, from the 1950s to the present, and offers unprecedented analyses of the work of Barbara Guest, Bernadette Mayer, Alice Notley, Eileen Myles, and abstract painter Joan Mitchell as well as a reconsideration of the work of many male New York School writers and artists from a feminist perspective.

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Customer Reviews

I read this because I devoured *The Argonauts* and *The Art of Cruelty*. Luckily I'm also a poetry wonk, so I gelled easily with the subject, but even if you're not, it's worth it for Nelson fans. She's ferociously intelligent, a really really important 21st c thinker and writer. I read this fairly speedily, over the course of a couple of nights, marking up the pages all the way. Prior to reading *WNYS*, the only poet Nelson covers who I read and appreciated with any consistency or ardor was Frank O'Hara. She finally helped me to "get" Schuyler, specifically, but also to understand a greater NYS approach to casualness and I guess I'd say scrappiness that helped me to read these poets with a new eye. More importantly, her book acts as a corrective to overly male-favored (and -written) criticism of the NYS and all other subgenres and schools of writing. I wish Bernadette Mayer and Alice Notley were more my style of poet, but regardless, Nelson's long chapters on each are excellent.

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