



## Through Parisian Eyes

Excerpted From: *Paris Notes*: Vol 2 Issue II

WHAT EXACTLY is a French “intellectual”? We read about the influence that these thinkers have on the moral and social ethos of French society, but as Americans it is hard for us to understand the impact of their ideas. Not that we don't have intellectuals, it's just that we rarely think of them as shaping our national agenda as they do in France. In a new book called “Through Parisian Eyes: Reflections on Contemporary French Arts and Culture,” by Melinda Camber Porter we enter the minds, through a series of 32 candid interviews, of some of France's most revered thinkers, including François Truffaut, Jean-Paul Sartre, Marguerite Duras and André Malraux; and we discover the unique role that Paris, as the spiritual center of French culture, plays in nurturing France's mainstream consciousness.

When we think of French intellectuals, we think of Paris cafés and late night discussions in smoky Left Bank apartments. Guided by Ms. Camber Porter's insightful and frank commentary, we enjoy a rare opportunity to “sit in” on some of these discussions and to learn about the complex and sometimes schizophrenic nature of French artistic and political thought. This book will make for an interesting companion on your next trip to Paris.

Ms. Camber Porter, a Brit and a graduate of Oxford University in 1974, lived in Paris for ten years while working as a cultural correspondent for The Times of London. Also an accomplished artist, poet and novelist, Ms. Camber Porter currently lives in New York, but admits that “French culture still informs the way I feel and think. . .”

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