



## Through Parisian Eyes

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Subtitled "Reflections on Contemporary French Arts and Culture," "Through Parisian Eyes" is a fitfully diverting scanning of postwar French thought, art and politics that spreads itself too thin to be enlightening in any particular area. Melinda Camber Porter, a reporter for The Times of London, has collected bits of conversations she has had with some 30 leading French and European figures, such as Jean-Paul Sartre, François Truffaut, Alain Resnais and Jean Anouilh, but her homey snippets with each are too short and undeveloped to be of any real value.

Apparently in varying degrees of awe of her subjects, Porter speaks of and to them in reverent tones and her questions were far from challenging. Interviews were conducted over the last decade or so; some of the older ones are burdened by the specific concerns of the day, such as a piece on Monica Wittig in which the feminist complains "All women suffer from the same oppression, whether they be lesbian or not, and we should be united in our fight against male phallocracy." Such sentiments aren't exactly found plastered on many walls nowadays.

Occasional moments of interest pop up, as in film artiste Resnais' sincere confession to being concerned with making films that will make money and reach a wide audience, though he knows that they usually wind up doing neither to any large degree.

Unfortunately, Porter seems to be content to sit back and let her subjects speak, offering little in the way of pointed rejoinders to some of the more dubious opinions expressed; the reader of these pieces is not likely to be so tolerant.

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