

FEMINIST POETICS

With the emergence of the women's movement in the 1960's, a number of women writers began working to define themselves in relationship to a literary tradition that had long marginalized the female voice. The Confessional movement empowered women to write frankly about their own lives, and this became the starting point for scrutinizing the **power relationship between the sexes**. In her 1986 treatise *Stealing the Language*, Alicia Suskin Ostriker sought to define feminist poetics, arguing that certain thematic preoccupations—including **revisionist mythmaking** and the **poetics of the body**—were common to women. Closely identified with feminist poetics are activist poets like Adrienne Rich, Audre Lorde, June Jordan, and Marge Piercy, whose **politically charged** poems seek to transform the culture at large.

Primary Practitioners: Anne Sexton, Adrienne Rich, Sylvia Plath, Molly Peacock, Sharon Olds, Denise Levertov, Carolyn Kizer, Marilyn Hacker, Carolyn Forché, Lucille Clifton, Kim Addonizio..

Geographical Locale: Mostly urban and suburban.

Years of Prominence: 1970's – 1990's. Since the feminist movement has now moved into its third generation, with society-wide influence in almost every social sphere, feminist poetics is now pervasive.

For further study:

<https://www.bachelorandmaster.com/criticaltheories/toward-a-feminist-poetics.html#.Wm5zaoWsLjA>

<https://www.thoughtco.com/prominent-feminist-poets-3528962>

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/june-jordan>

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/adrienne-rich>

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/carolyn-kizer>