

Source

One of the greatest dangers that now presents itself in feminism is the impulse to practice feminism in a herd. At first this was important...but now this “we” is becoming troublesome. There have to be “I’s” and women have to become authors, actors, not to hypostatize or overvalue those particular kinds of work, but so that this perspective will push each one of us to find her own individual language.

Julia Kristeva, *Julia Kristeva Interviews*, ed. Ross Mitchell Gruberman
(New York: Columbia University Press, 1996), p 117.

Throughout human history, the drive to procreate has influenced the ways in which human kind has structured their cultures to protect and encourage future generations. As those who give birth, women have always been and continue to be an important source of life, a fact that is often intentionally or unintentionally obscured within the complexities of feminist criticism. The bodies of women belong within the subjective narratives of women; our historically patriarchal society needs to relinquish its objectification of women and recognize the value of our individual voices.

Source reflects how the experiences of pregnancy and childbirth impacted the direction of my life when I chose to care for my children on a full-time basis during their childhoods rather than invest my time in a different career. Only when they became self-sufficient and close to maturity did I begin my education in the field of art, a move that led me to explore ideas about femaleness, personal identity within male/female relationships, and feminist theory. The paintings in Source are my first visual representation of this search, the works on paper continue to reflect upon that theme, and the poem Source describes the roots of the visual motif.

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