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Feminist Music: Webpage Contribution

This webpage contribution describes important issues discussed in a thesis of Geneva M. Murray about the deconstruction of patriarchy through women's voice. The reason why I chose this excellent work is because of its credibility, its numerous sources and because the facts presented are highly relevant to our *Women Writers* class.

According to Irigaray, feminist music has been influenced by feminist theories; therefore allowing feminist music to be the active alternative for feminist postmodern theories and radical feminist theories. (Irigaray, 1985) However, it seems that the music industry can limit the entrance of extremely political feminist musicians. When feminist musicians do break into the industry, other institutions, like the media, still attempt to silence their political impact.

Silencing occurs by trivializing the musicians' voices in terms of their feminist activism positioning them as 'merely' a girl stubbornly wanting to force the musicians into a box of femininity or by denying their existence and focusing on the only male in the band. (Parker, 2002) This is an excellent example of silencing women's culture and there is a clear connection with the silencing of women's voice in other forms of art, especially in literature. As we have seen in *Women Writers*, there is a muted culture around women and it seems that the patriarchal system is silencing women not only in literature but also in other forms of art like it paintings and in music.

Thereafter, as described in the thesis of Geneva M. Murray, despite the ways in which institutions deny the voices of women, there is a strong trend among feminist music analysts that claim that feminist music opens up a space for women's voices and women's general concerns. Music, sung from a woman's perspective, opens a form of fluidity that constructs a female voice and language. Feminist artists came to the music scene in an effort to, consciously and unconsciously, create and provide their own symbolic representation (Savage, 2003). The listeners then, because of the feminist artists' politics, are able to find identity within the songs – by identifying with a lesbian theme, gender continuums, descriptions of sexual assault, everyday discrimination against minorities, etc.

I really agree that feminist music opens up a space for women's voices since music in general is a genuine form of expression. In the lyrics of well-known songs, many important women's issues are discussed and this is a way in which women are given a voice. It gives them the opportunity to discuss important issues and question the institutions in place that oppress them. It seems that in music, women want to escape from exploitation by concrete cohesive action. They can disrupt the entire order of dominant values, economic, social, moral, and sexual. They call into question all existing theory, although, all language as these are monopolized by men and men alone. They challenge the very foundation of our social and cultural order, whose organization has been prescribed by the patriarchal system. (Murray, 2005)

To conclude, in the realm of authors who study feminist music specifically, feminist music is believed to impact society by establishing a community of women and giving voice to their concerns.

Work Cited

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