

SUPERVISED BY  
**BÉATRICE DIDIER**  
**ANTOINETTE FOUQUE**  
**MIREILLE CALLE-GRUBER**

DROP INITIALS BY  
**SONIA RYKIEL**



# Le Dictionnaire universel des Créatrices



**ARTS GEOGRAPHY**  
**EXPLORATION HISTORY**  
**POLITICS ECONOMICS**  
**LITERATURE PUBLISHING**  
**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**  
**HUMANITIES SPORTS**

*des femmes*  
Antoinette Fouque

# Forty centuries of women's creation worldwide

in all the fields of human history,  
art, culture and science.

**L**e *Dictionnaire universel des femmes créatrices* (The Universal Dictionary of Women Creators) evolved from the desire to highlight women's creation throughout the world and in history, to make their contribution to civilization visible. Thought of as a novel contribution to the world's cultural heritage, it was made possible by over four decades of commitments and work in France and in every other country, which enabled the recovery of a genealogy hitherto deprived of memory. Its intention is to present the known or still little-known women creators who, individually or together, have marked their time and opened new paths in one of the fields of human activity. Its scope covers every continent, every period, the entire traditional range of disciplines (artistic, literary, philosophical as well as scientific) and extends from women athletes to politicians through women in the performing arts, storytellers and craftswomen, even if they are anonymous.

Creator, every woman who is at work.



This *Dictionnaire des femmes créatrices* is a work that will be a landmark, through its ambition and its determination to shed light on the women players of creation throughout history and the world. UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) is proud to support this work and the values it contains. [...] A work like this one was needed to pay tribute to the diversity of women creators and to hail their contribution to civilization and world culture.

**Irina Bokova**, Director General of UNESCO



Today, we have become poets and we are writing our condition ourselves. Here, we sing gestation and fertile women, the movement par excellence that displaces lines, that weeps, that laughs, that sings and that comes to life, the desire for permanent creation in every woman's body – a piece of needlework or a work of genius, in a petit

point tapestry as in pregnancy. Accomplishment – endless incompleteness. Half-epic, half-history, this *Dictionnaire universel*, this gesture to the glory of women, takes part in the education of posterity.

**Antoinette Fouque**

Not only do they restore as a creator in her context, in a literary or artistic movement, within a literary genre, consequently making it possible to better understand the meaning of her work, the synthetic articles present the interest in also making a place for anonymous creators such as African weavers, storytellers whose names are unknown, or a entire laboratory of scientists, in which a single name can be difficult to isolate since a discovery had genuinely been the result of teamwork.

**Béatrice Didier**

Rehabilitating what had been despised because it was done by women, we have seen come to light, with their works, the marks of remarkable intellectual, political or scientific courage. We need only think of the difficulties that girls [...] have had to overcome to access education, study, go to college, enter certain sectors, such as medicine, which was prohibited for them, publish, go into politics, as well as family obstacles and all the affective disruptions that these paths brought about.

**Mireille Calle-Gruber**

Excerpts from the Dictionary's prefaces

# A pioneering encyclopedic dictionary

## A novel contribution to the world's cultural heritage

- 3 volumes of 1,600 pages each, paperback, boxed, 17 x 24 cm format
- Over 100 section directors, distinguished personalities from many countries, recognized in their research field
- Nearly 1,600 authors from every continent
- 12,000 articles on a woman creator or a theme, school, movement or culture in which women have won renown, in alphabetical order
- Indexes by creation field, continent and historical period

## 8 major fields identified by a color code

■ Arts	■ Literature and publishing
■ Performing arts	■ Science and technology
■ Geography-Exploration	■ Humanities and social sciences
■ History-Politics-Economics	■ Sports

## Drop initials by **Sonia Rykiel**



## The Scientific Board



**Béatrice Didier**, a professor at the Paris 8 University, which she contributed to create, then at the École Normale Supérieure where she ran the Literature and Languages Department, and where she is currently holding a seminar, "Literature-Music," is the author of *L'écriture-femme* and published a *Dictionnaire universel des littératures* at PUF. She is specialized in 18th and 19th century French literature (Stendhal as an autobiographer; and George Sand as a writer). She is in charge of the publication of the complete works of George Sand (H. Champion).



**Antoinette Fouque** cofounded the French Women's Liberation Movement (MLF) in 1968. A psychoanalyst, a theoretician of the difference of the sexes, she founded the research group "Psychoanalysis and Politics" within the MLF in 1968, the Institute of Feminology in 1978, the publishing house *Des femmes* in 1973, several newspapers and various NGOs including the Alliance des femmes pour la démocratie. A research director in political sciences at the Paris 8 University, she was a Member of the European Parliament from 1994 to 1999. She is notably the author of three feminology essays, including *Il y a deux sexes* (Gallimard).



**Mireille Calle-Gruber** is a writer and a literature professor at the Sorbonne Nouvelle - Paris 3 University where she directs the Research Center for Women's and Gender Studies and Francophone Literatures, after having steered a research program on women's studies in Canada and having headed the Center for Women's Studies of the Paris 8 University. Her work focuses on literature, the arts and philosophy. She is notably the author of *Histoire de la littérature française du xx<sup>e</sup> siècle* and published *La différence sexuelle en tous genres* (collective issue of Littérature, 2006).

## The Editorial Board

By creating the *Des femmes* publishing house in 1973, Antoinette Fouque wished, she said, "to stress the creative force of women, to bring to light the fact that they enrich civilization." Her ambition was to "create an ensemble, in the musical, mathematical and convivial meaning of the word, in which the individual finds fulfillment also in a group, in which a singular destiny echoes with a community of women's destinies." *Des femmes* therefore had, from its very beginnings, the vocation of welcoming this historic project.



1973 – 2013  
*des femmes*  
Antoinette Fouque

celebrates 40 years of publishing  
with *Le Dictionnaire*  
*universel des créatrices*

Price: 165 euros

It can be ordered on the French  
bookstores platforms and websites

ISBN : 9782721006318

*des femmes*  
Antoinette Fouque

33-35 rue Jacob 75006 Paris

+ 33 (0)1 42 22 60 74

[www.desfemmes.fr](http://www.desfemmes.fr)

 Le Dictionnaire universel des femmes créatrices



Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture

Sous le patronage  
de l'UNESCO



Avec le soutien du



En partenariat avec

