

*Des femmes* - Antoinette Fouque  
presents...

## *Le Dictionnaire universel des créatrices*

Directed by Béatrice Didier, Antoinette Fouque,  
Mireille Calle-Gruber

**Forty centuries of women's creation  
worldwide in all the fields of human  
history, art, culture and science**



« 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. (...) In this beautiful showcase of drop initials created by Sonia Rykiel, this book is a jewel in the image of all the names it contains: elegant, engaged, universal. »  
Irina Bokova, Director General of UNESCO - Preface

### « Women creators of the world

On the 40th anniversary of its creation, éditions Des femmes-Antoinette Fouque proposes a never-before-published universal inventory of women who have made the world. Rebels, pioneers, precursors, the *Dictionnaire universel des créatrices* includes hundreds of them. Seven years were needed to complete this project. (...) It took no less than three volumes to bring out of the shadow these “creators” whom this project’s promoter defines as “every woman who is as work”. » *Livres Hebdo*, November 8, 2013

### « A dictionary to the glory of women who have marked their time

Heloise, Catherine Deneuve, Simone Veil, Malala: 10,000 women, from every period and every continent, have their entry in the *Dictionnaire universel des créatrices* published under the patronage of UNESCO, to spotlight their “contribution to humanity.” This total of 5,000 pages is a “moment of the French Women’s Liberation Movement [MLF],” stresses, in the preface, Antoinette Fouque, cofounder of the MLF who was in charge of the work’s direction with Béatrice Didier, scholar, and Mireille Calle-Gruber, writer and teacher. “May this gesture to the glory of women take part in the education of posterity”. »

*AFP*, Paris November 9, 2013

« This Dictionnaire that covers 40 centuries shows how the world has changed and how it is changing very rapidly. »

Edith Cresson, former prime minister - *Le Huffington Post*,  
November 18, 2013

► « For the first time in the world, a single work brings together over 10,000 women from every continent and every century who, through their personalities, their actions and their combats, have marked their time (...). An exceptional contribution to the world's cultural heritage. (...) A titanic work, illustrated by the great French creator, Sonia Rykiel. » *artéMédia, November 22, 2013*

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« It is a work that should become a reference not only in France, but also in the world. (...) A world premiere, and an exceptional operation for which this emblematic publishing house, created 40 years ago by Antoinette Fouque (...) joined forces with the publisher Belin. 'The extraordinary thing is that we succeeded,' Antoinette Fouque moreover humorously remarked. » *Challenges.fr, November 22, 2013*

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« This 100% female encyclopedia contains those women who have counted since the birth of humanity. A combat against effacement and oblivion. (...) "We made the decision to do, not a monument to the deceased, but a hymn to the living in movement". » *Interview with Antoinette Fouque Le Soir (Belgium), November 25, 2013*

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### « Women, we love you!

Encyclopedic. You may not know Agnodice, a 4th-century B.C. Greek doctor and gynecologist, or Yoshimoto Banana, a Japanese writer born in 1964... They are however part of this dictionary, a "gesture of gratitude (...) to those women who have transmitted and continue to transmit to us their culture, their energy and their life instinct," explains Antoinette Fouque (...). This extraordinary work is dizzying with nearly 1,600 authors from every continent, 12,000 lively pertinent articles over nearly 5,000 pages. (...) A great work that will become a landmark. » *Le Point, November 28, 2013*

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### « Women creators – their first dictionary

5,000-page dictionary to learn what humanity owes to women. »

*Femme actuelle, November 25 - December 1, 2013*

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« And here is a beautiful book – this *Dictionnaire universel des créatrices* published under the exceptional patronage of UNESCO. For the first time, a work brings together over 10,000 women from every continent who have marked their time and opens new paths in every field of human activity. » *Biba, December 2013*

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### « Great ladies

A tribute to celebrated women and those who have not been recognized. (...) The elegant pen of Sonia Rykiel illustrates this undertaking as exciting as it is original, and that is a world premiere. »

*Challenges, December 12, 2013*

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### « Talented women from A to Z

It is a *Dictionnaire universel* that contains women, all women, artists, researchers, creators, writers, therapists, athletes, composers, botanists, actors, Bolivian revolutionaries, etc. (...) It also tackles major themes, the history of abortion, the belated right to vote, songs of the Punu mourners in Gabon, or the first Bulgarian writers... That shows the scope of the task so that women finally have an "encyclopedia about themselves". » *Paris Match, December 12-18, 2013*

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« Antoinette Fouque is still continuing, today, to make mindsets change and to shake up the genders. She has just published a *Dictionnaire universel des créatrices*, which goes back over 40 centuries of innovations... » *Aufeminin.com, December 13, 2013*

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« This sort of pantheon of female figures of creation leaves you speechless insofar as it reveals the enormous scope of our ignorance. (...) It is clearly because it is unreasonable that it pulls names and works out of oblivion, that it is fascinating and that you have to go and see it. »

*Clés, December 2013 - January 2014* ►

► « Women of letters, women of being

To carry out this Herculean task, a squad of researchers worked for nearly six years. And if the result is protean, a mosaic of destinies covering eight fields of activity, it is nonetheless edifying: the arts, science, literature and power would not have been what we knew without women. Their contribution to humanity, despite the obstacles strewn on their path, is essential. »

*L'Express*, December 18-24, 2013

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« Antoinette Fouque is at the origin of a work that will be a landmark: *Le Dictionnaire des créatrices*. »

*Point de vue*, December 18-24, 2013

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« The cofounder of the MLF has just published the *Le Dictionnaire universel des créatrices*, the first real encyclopedia of women. »

*Elle*, December 20, 2013

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« Psychoanalyst, publisher, feminist activist... Antoinette Fouque is more than ever in sync with our period. Her new manifesto, the *Dictionnaire universel des créatrices*, spotlights more than half of humanity. »

« Ever since I founded éditions des femmes, I have wanted to have an encyclopedia of women, like Diderot in the 18th century. » (A.F.)

*Madame Figaro*, December 27-28, 2013

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« The *Dictionnaire universel des créatrices*. A hefty volume in the form of a tribute to those women who, writers, athletes, researchers or activists, have created the history of humanity. A genuine gift.

(...) It is here, at last, the reference work missing from every library: 4,800 pages and 7 kilos that objectively surveyed centuries of an unknown history, that of women. "What is extraordinary, is that we succeeded," Antoinette Fouque remarks with emotion. 'Because it was no easy task to find these 10,000 heroines of light and shade, especially those who were abandoned by the collective memory, the ones the podiums forgot. »

*Causette*, December 2013-January 2014

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### *The Dictionnaire des créatrices* has also been presented

#### on television:

- on TF1, by Claire Chazal, on the *Journal télévisé de 20 heures* on November 24, 2013
- on France 24, on November 22, 2013
- on BFM TV, by Ruth Elkrief, *Actualités 18 - 20 heures*, November 27, 2013
- on LCI, by Valérie Expert, *Coup de cœur des libraires*, December 13, 2013
- on Paris Première, by Christophe Bourseiller, *Ça Balance à Paris*, December 14, 2013
- on France 2, *Thé ou café*, January 5, 2014
- on Canal +, *La Grande Edition*, January 9, 2014

#### and on radio :

- on France Inter, *Le journal de 9 heures*, November 22, 2013
- on France Culture, *La Grande Table*, « *Comment penser le féminin ?* », November 23, 2013
- on RTBF, « *Tout le monde y passe* », December 5, 2013
- on Europe 1, *journal d'Europe soir*, January 3, 2014
- on RTSF, *Les matinales d'Espace 2*, January 7, 2014

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