

¹Marilyn French's recent historical encyclopedia has a strong sense of this kind of process, as well as an impressive summary of what men have chosen to know and chosen to forget (French 43–112).

²The emphases are textual, the bracketed interpolations mine.

I do not like "foot-noting" women: reminds me of "foot-binding." But I must acknowledge the debts which come as much from informal talking as formal writing. So to Somer Brodribb, Frieda Forman, Medeline Grumet, Sandra Harding, Nancy Hartsock, Angela Miles, Dale Spending and many others: salutations.

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MARY O'BRIEN

XXV

I am weary of the platitudes of change—
accelerated inconvenience
calls for response
old as feeling rain fall
faster, suddenly,
or watching others or myself
mutate
as we have done, and will again
predictable, unknowable as bugs
bugged by some novel chemical

But then
I never was enamoured
of consistancy
never felt
warmth of certainty
radiate from the cracked crucible of existing
or knew
the chrismal emollient
of being sure of anything at all.

So no
hearing the tired tautologies of change
articulated
with verve or terror
tight lipped trauma
ass-holed asininity
naive delight
as if of something never known before.

Then all I do
is mix the plaster of iconoclasm
a little thicker
to build my barricades a little higher
and wonder why the hell I seem to care
for what goes on
out there.

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