



Queering Medea with Maria Callas: On P. P. Pasolini's Filmic Adaptation of the Medea Myth

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Merangasse 18/KG, SR 35.K2, 8010 Graz



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There is something awry in the historical memory around Medea. This is precisely the point of departure of Pasolini's film: he does not create an opposition between the world of patriarchal reason, embodied by Jason, and the matriarchal, irrational, archaic, and magical world personified by Medea. On the contrary, he shows that this opposition is itself the product of a historical conception, which from the Age of Reason has associated the departure from self-caused immaturity with the rationalization of sensuality and sexuality. As I will show, this queering of the Medea myth is masterly represented by Maria Callas in the role of Medea. Her gesture and acting originate in 19th century opera. Hers is a body fallen silent in the midst of song. Her affiliation with such a different medium makes Callas/Medea appear even more extraneous, sublime, and distant.



Astrid Deuber-Mankowsky is currently Professor of Media Studies and Gender Studies at the Ruhr-University Bochum. She has published extensively on topics in feminist theory, representation and mediality, media theory, and philosophy as well as religion and modernism. Her book *Der frühe Walter Benjamin und Hermann Cohen*.

Jüdische Werte, Kritische Philosophie, vergängliche Erfahrung [Verlag Vorwerk 8: Berlin. 2000] was awarded the Humboldt University prize for best dissertation. English translations of her writings include

Lara Croft: *Cyber Heroine*, University of Minnesota Press: Minneapolis, London, 2005. Translated by Dominic Bonfiglio. Foreword by Sue-Ellen Case. Her recent book is entitled *Praktiken der Illusion. Kant, Nietzsche, Cohen, Benjamin bis Donna J. Haraway* and was published 2007 [Verlag Vorwerk 8: Berlin]. She was a visiting scholar at UC Berkeley (2007), visiting professor at the Centre d'études du vivant, Université Paris VII – Diderot (2010), Max Kade Professor at Columbia University (2012), and Senior Fellow at Internationales Kolleg für Kulturtechnikforschung und Mediенphilosophie (IKKM), Weimar (2013). She is also an associate member of the Institute for Cultural Inquiry Berlin (ICI Berlin).

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