

Introduction

As guest editors, it is a pleasure to introduce the special December number of the 20th issue of the *ABEI Journal*, under the title “Contemplating feminism(s): women writers and women critics”. This monographic issue intends to examine the underrepresentation of both women writers and critics in contemporary Irish culture. Hence, the texts which are compiled here will contribute to the ongoing debate over – what some see as – an apparent segregation of literature as regards gender. Most articles revolve around the issue of women, and in the cases in which they do not, they have been written by female academics and critics.

The *Journal* opens with a short collection of poems written by the award-winning and best-selling novelist and poet, Mary Donnell, and translated by the also award-winning Brazilian poet and scholar Divanize Carbonieri. We are also delighted to publish the short story “Goosen”, by Nuala O’Connor (Nuala Ní Chonchúir), which focuses on the point of view of Nora Barnacle, James Joyce’s lifelong partner.

The section that follows introduces academic pieces by scholars from several countries. Audrey Robitailié deals with the rewriting of the changeling motif under the perspective of gender relations in Ireland in Lisa Carey’s *The Stolen Child*, published in 2017. The act of rewriting is also present in Mary O’Donnell’s remake of Mary Lavin’s “The Widow’s Son” in Giovanna Tallone’s article. Gisele Giandoni Wolkoff considers contemporary literature and empowerment in Celia De Fréine’s works. Hedwig Schwall tackles Roisín O’Donnell’s transcultural writing under the perspective of psychoanalysis. Mother and daughter relationship in Edna O’Brien’s *The Light of Evening* is the focus of Maria Isabel Arriaga, while Rejane de Souza Ferreira writes about silence and sexuality in Anne Enright’s *The Gathering*.

In the section “Voices from South America”, Viviana P. Keegan’s article presents innovative research in the field of Irish Studies in South America while tracing Irish Roots in Argentinian children’s writer Graciela Cabal’s Story “Gualicho”. Finally, the *Journal* closes with reviews by José Carregal-Romero, Mariana Bolfarine and Patricia de Aquino Prudente of books written by women critics.

The editors of *ABEI Journal* honour the launch of this first special online issue choosing for its cover May Guinness’s *Two Irish Girls* (1863-1955) in which her cubist style dialogues with the Brazilian Maria Leontina da Costa’s *Duas figuras* (*Two Figures*; 1917-1984) that closes this introduction.

Mariana Bolfarine
Marisol Morales-Ladrón



Duas figuras, 1952

Maria Leontina da Costa (Brasil, 1917-1984)