

The Essay as Rewriting

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“The essay as forms of rewriting: Cixous to Montaigne” is a translation of Mireille Calle-Gruber’s “L’essai comme forme de réécriture: Cixous à Montaigne”, originally published in *Études françaises* vol. 40, n° 1, 2004, p. 29-42 (doi.org/10.7202/008474ar).

In this piece, Mireille Calle-Gruber explores Hélène Cixous’s lineage with Montaigne’s own lifework *Les Essais*. Drawing on a number of Cixous’s books, she writes about the genealogical and generative forces of literature, the human condition and the ‘kitchen’ of literature.

This interdisciplinary translation project was funded by Arts Council England, through the Developing your Creative Practice scheme, and undertaken by Caroline Rabourdin in collaboration with translator Sophie Lewis and graphic designer Matthew Chrislip. The digital version was developed by Julia Novitch and Alejandro Bellón Ample. The aim of this project is to consider the translation process from a visual as well as a literary perspective, paying close attention to the multiplicity of the text, the many possible choices, and the possibility of not choosing.