

# When the Moon Waxes Red: Representation, Gender and Cultural Politics

By Trinh T. Minh-ha

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In this new collection of her provocative essays on Third World art and culture, Trinh Minh-ha offers new challenges to Western regimes of knowledge. Bringing to her subjects an acute sense of the many meanings of the marginal, she examines topics such as Asian and African texts, the theories of Barthes, questions of spectatorship, the enigmas of art, and the perils of anthropology.

*When the Moon Waxes Red* is an extended argument against reductive analyses, even those that appear politically adroit. The multiply-hyphenated peoples of color are not simply placed in a duality between two cultural heritages; throughout, Trinh describes the predicament of having to live "a difference that has no name and too many names already." She argues for multicultural revision of knowledge so that a new politics can transform reality rather than merely ideologize it. By rewriting the always emerging, already distorted place of struggle, such work seeks to "beat the master at his own game."

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### Editorial Review

From Library Journal

In this collection of 14 essays, Trinh, a writer, feminist, and filmmaker, explores unconventional documentary filmmaking and literary techniques. Typically, documentary styles have kept a distance between subject and viewer, creating a sense of mastery in the viewer. By stressing form rather than content, boundaries of the acceptable in artform are transgressed, resulting in a nonlinear movement that leads the viewer into a profound experience that does not have to make sense. In this well-documented book, Trinh explores semiotic ideas of Michel Foucault and Roland Barthes, along with the works of Zora Neale Hurston and Helene Cixous, among others. Illustrated with footage from her films, the form of Trinh's book plays a major role in the presentation of its content. A wonderful volume, this is recommended for academic libraries, especially those that support programs in film and women's studies.

- Paula N. Arnold, Norwich Univ. Lib., Northfield, Vt.

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### Review

"Regardless of the structure in which she is writing, Trinh's language has the beauty and precision of poetry, her criticisms the clarity and focus of a well-directed film. But it is her methodology that is most unusual and innovative. As she works with theorizations of displacement and representation to develop and explain her own theses about difference and marginalization, she displaces her critical view so that it may simultaneously examine the assumptions underlying and informing those theorizations."

-L'Esprit Createur

"A wonderful book. . ."

-Library Journal

### About the Author

**Trinh Minh-ha** is Chancellors' Distinguished Professor in Women's Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, and Associate Professor of Cinema at San Francisco State University. Among her films is *Surname Viet Given Name Nam*. She is the author of *Women, Native, Other: Writing Postcoloniality and Feminism* and, most recently, has coedited *Out There: Marginalization in Contemporary Culture*.

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#### Mary Gines:

Reading can called brain hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book specially book entitled When the Moon Waxes Red: Representation, Gender and Cultural Politics your head will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every single aspect that maybe not known for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging every single word written in a publication then become one type conclusion and explanation in which maybe you never get ahead of. The When the Moon Waxes Red: Representation, Gender and Cultural Politics giving you an additional experience more than blown away the mind but also giving you useful info for your better life in this era. So now let us present to you the relaxing pattern the following is your body and mind will be pleased when you are finished reading it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

**Edward Payne:**

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**Gayle Anderson:**

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**Katherine Contreras:**

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