

## “Draw Me Like One of Your French Girls”: An Écriture Féminine Approach to Critique Male Corporeality in Alexandra Rubinstein’s Art

by Kayla A. Schmitz

“Draw Me Like One of Your French Girls,” a phrase not typically spoken or heard from a cyclopean penis lounging on a chaise, except in Alexandra Rubinstein’s paintings. (<http://bit.ly/2ZbZIAM>) My honor’s thesis will consist of a written critical performance critiquing Russian-American conceptual artist, Alexandra Rubinstein’s (b. 1988) art. Rubinstein has been featured in *GQ*, *Huffington Post*, *Forbes* and more; currently, no academic work has focused on Rubinstein’s art which centers on the male body, particularly the penis. Rubinstein’s nonconformist work provides a complete and complex inversion of the corporeal art we are used to. My script will explore the relationship between power, gender, and sexuality based upon who/what is the object versus the subject in art. After all, what power is there in painting an embodiment of female heterosexuality? Where does the power belong, in the eye of the beholder, or the subject themselves? Do or *can* male bodies have the same “to-be-looked-at-ness” as women, as scholar Laura Mulvey states? Utilizing écriture féminine, a subversive feminist mode of writing and expressing ideas, my script will critique Rubinstein’s own (often satirical) critique on typical depictions of women and their bodies which are corroded by ancient Freudian assumptions of phallogentrism. Écriture féminine allows for better use of personal experience and emotion, breaking free from traditional, phallogocentric linear and structured writing, making this script more engaging, piercing and effective. This will be done by exemplifying how Rubinstein explodes the heteropatriarchal male gaze by representing the male body just as the female body is routinely represented within media – naked, sexualized, and vulnerable. Consequently, Rubinstein ultimately provides power for both the subject and the object by supplying an avenue for healthy vulnerability for the male object/subject while also providing rarely seen and radical expressions of female heterosexuality for the viewer.