

ABSTRACT

This study looks at the image of *l'Antillaise* presented by the literature of the French Caribbean. The literary perception of French West Indian femininity which appears in selected poetic and dramatic texts by Aimé Césaire is shown to be a determining factor in the motivation behind the female act of writing and choice of genre.

The liberation of the French West Indian female act of writing, which occurs in *Mémoires d'Isles* by Ina Césaire, emerges as a function of a breaking away from the written genres, whereby the theatre is a means of achieving autonomous self-expression, or female literary liberation.