Simone de Beauvoir
(1908-1986)
French writer and philosopher. Her passionate, pioneering feminist work The Second Sex (1949) outlined the constructed nature of femininity as 'other', whilst men had taken the active 'subject' role. Unlike later French feminists (such as Irigaray and Cixous), de Beauvoir saw women and men as basically similar, but patriarchal social and economic forces kept women subordinate. Critics say that de Beauvoir liked men too much.

Selected Works:
The Second Sex (Vintage, 1989)
Adieux: A Farewell to Sartre (Knopf, 1985)
The Ethics of Ambiguity (Citadel, 2000)