

4 Of The Most Remarkable Feminist Thinkers Or Activists

Simone de Beauvoir

Simone de Beauvoir was born in a family of strict christian morals on January 9, 1908, Paris, France. She was a french writer and feminist, a member of the intellectual fellowship of philosopher-writers who have given a literary transcription to the themes of existentialism.

Simone is known primarily for her treatise *Le Deuxième Sexe*, 2 vol. (*The Second Sex*), a scholarly and passionate plea for the abolition of what she called the myth of the "eternal feminine". It became a classic of feminist literature because as soon as it was published, it unleashed different controversies, branded as immoral, scandalous and even pornographic, by reactionary and Catholic movements. Her approach, for the time, contravened the social conventions of the time when talking about women's equality, the emancipation of women, their role within the home and their relationship, in this sense, with man . She criticized those factors that were a brake on the intellectual and professional progress of women, and about the struggle for the independence and equality of women in a legal framework that considered men and women as equal.

In her pages, she developed an elaborate story about the condition of women, analyzing from different angles the masculine oppression that she had suffered and suffered. One of her most fervent attacks was directed towards her role in housework, in her reproductive condition, as wife and mother. The woman therefore could not create social bonds and, therefore, she did not have the possibility of being free.

She died on 1986, but always maintain the the existentialist belief in the absolute ontological freedom of each existence regardless of sex, Beauvoir never claims that man has succeeded in destroying woman's freedom or in actually turning her into an "object" in relation to his subjectivity. She remains a transcendent freedom despite her objectification, alienation and oppression.

Amelia Earhart

"Women must try to do things as men have tried. When they fail, their failure must be but a challenge to others."— Amelia Mary Earhart.

Amelia Mary Earhart born on July 24, 1897, Kansas, U.S. She was an American aviator, one of the world's most celebrated, who was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. Amelia is perhaps most well-known as the pilot who disappeared mysteriously in 1937 while flying over the Pacific Ocean. Nevertheless, this historical anomaly has seemingly eclipsed Earhart's legacy as one of the most successful female aviators in history.

"The focus on her disappearance has overshadowed what accomplished in her short but very productive life, which included her role in promoting larger roles for women in aviation and especially how she was a role model for women ", biographer Susan Ware tells. "Earhart always worked to portray her individual achievements as examples of what women could do if given a chance."

Amelia consistently worked to promote opportunities for women in aviation.

In 1929, after placing third in the All-Women's Air Derby – the first transcontinental air race for women – Earhart helped to form the Ninety- Nines, an international organization for the advancement of female pilots. She became the first president of the organization of licensed pilots, which still exists today and represents women flyers from 44 countries.

Amelia Earhart may not have labeled herself a feminist, but she espoused feminist beliefs and motioned women to assert themselves in male dominated spaces. She fought continually throughout her career to show the world that she, and, by extension, her gender as a whole, was capable of many accomplishments when given the chance.

Virginia Woolf

Adeline Virginia Stephen who born in the UK was a feminist writer of the 20th century who dared to write about the sexual, intellectual and political injustices that existed towards women at that time. Before the Second World War and long before the second wave of feminism, Virginia Woolf argued that women's experience, particularly in the women's movement, could be the basis for transformative social change.

Woolf's changing representation of feminism in publications from 1920 to 1940 parallels her involvement with the contemporary women's movement (suffragism and its descendants, and the pacifist, working-class Women's Co-operative Guild). Virginia was one of the first writers to give space to emotions, to treat them normally in times of coldness and hostility.

She spoke about social interpretations, often silent at that time, such as mental health, dreams, sexuality and everything through characters that externalize her thoughts in internal monologues, generating whoever read them their own reflection.

Virginia stood out for her feminist essay "A room of her own", where she defends that every woman who wants to dedicate herself to literature "must have money and a room of her own".

One of her main speeches was the one she made for the society of women seeking employment "The Women's Service League", in 1942. A powerful message about the fight against the stereotype of "the perfect woman", that woman who always shows a smile, cooks, embroiders, sings and if she had all these characteristics and nothing else, she would become the ideal woman. Virginia fought against this stereotype, writing that the woman is much more than just the angel of the house. The woman is someone independent, intelligent, she is important to society and her thoughts and opinions can contribute.

Rose Scott

Rose Scott was born on 8 October 1847 at Glendon, New South Wales. She and her closest sister Augusta were educated by their mother while their brothers went to boarding school. A renowned beauty and well-connected, Rose regularly visited Sydney. Like her sisters, she was brought up to marry, but unlike them, she remained unmarried. Later she claimed that life was too short to waste it in the service of one man.

Scott was a founding member of the Women's Literary Society in 1889 from whose members the Womanhood Suffrage League of New South Wales was formed in 1891. Although her mother remained implacably opposed to women's suffrage, Scott as foundation secretary of the league concentrated her considerable energies on the struggle for franchise (1892-96), using her social contacts and lobbying skills astutely. She continued even more determinedly after the vice suppression bill was laughed out of parliament in 1892; it sought to raise the age of consent to 16 and to make the public soliciting of prostitutes and abandoning a woman seduced under promise of marriage punishable offences. She survived many internal disputes in the league; despite a public profile of sweetness, charm and tact, she had decided convictions about political modes and priorities, which made her relations with other feminists less than harmonious.

After retiring from public life in 1922, Miss Scott gave newspaper interviews. She was now openly disillusioned about the progress of Australian women since enfranchisement and lamented that they had allowed themselves to be seduced by the men of party politics. She died on 20 April 1925 and was buried in the Anglican section of Rookwood cemetery. All her public life Rose Scott worked for measures to reduce men's power over women and to expand women's material options beyond marriage or prostitution.



EXERCISES

- First Series

Select the answer according to the description.

Simone de Beauvoir	Rose Scott	Virginia Woolf	Amelia Earhart
---------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------

1) She gave speeches against the stereotype in which women could only smile, laugh, cook, sing and nothing else, and through her texts she spread the message that women are intelligent and independent beings.

.....

2) Writer known for her treatise that touched on taboo subjects of that time and caused controversies and scandals because she spoke the situation of women in a direct and realistic way; she died at the end of the 20th century with the ideology that both, men and women, deserve freedom.

.....

3) Although she died mysteriously, her efforts to encourage women to try to do the same things as men to create more opportunities for the women's sector were not forgotten, and even if she never admitted to being a feminist, thanks to her passion for flying, she motivated many women around the world.

.....

4) She rejected to get married and asked that the age of consent for women be sixteen years old, and after her struggles within the feminist movement she felt disappointed by work of other feminists for their submissive struggle and accused them of having fallen under the politics of men.

.....

EXERCISES

- **Second Series**

1. Fill in the blanks with the name of the city or country where these incredible women were born.

Amelia Earhart	
Simone de Beauvoir	
Virginia Woolf	
Rose Scott	

2. Answer the following questions according to your opinion

- Which feminist woman described above inspired you the most and why?

- Have you heard the story of any of these women before? Where?

- Would you like to read any of the books or texts written by these women? Why or why not?