

Chapter 21

Making a Scene:
Struggles over Lesbian Place-Making
In Anglophone Canada, 1964-1984
Liz Millward



Questions for Critical Reading

1. What were some of the challenges faced by rural lesbians in particular? How were these challenges related to the concepts of “scene” and “scale”?
2. Why was the lesbian “scene” so connected to the urban environment? What advantages did this context offer to lesbian women?
3. Did the creation of a “scene” make lesbians more or less visible in broader Canadian society? What were the advantages/disadvantages in creating this space?
4. Millward focuses on the creation of a lesbian “scene.” What differences and similarities might gay men have faced in the creation of their “scenes”? How are these shaped by gender?

List of Primary Sources

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- “Get out. Get out of this house.” Johnston, Lynn. Drawing. 1993.
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- “Where are you going?” Johnston, Lynn. Drawing. 1993.
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- “...And if anyone knows of a reason why these two people should not...” Anderson, David. Drawing. 2000.
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- “Yonge Street.” Griffith, Julius Edward Lindsay. Print. 1972.
http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=3704422&rec_nbr_list=3704422
- “Bloor Street, Toronto.” Curtin, Walter. Photograph. 1955.
http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=3829906&rec_nbr_list=3829906
- “Dancing at the Paramount Tavern.” Stapleton, W. J. Watercolour. c.1978.
http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=4462939&rec_nbr_list=4462939

Multimedia Resources

- Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives
www.clga.ca
- History of the Gay Liberation Movement in Canada
www.uwo.ca/pridelib/body politic/gaylib/glhistory.htm
- Keeping Our Stories Alive: The Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives
www.youtube.com/watch?v=FKKBi7SFnqs
- Toronto’s Gay and Lesbian Community

http://www.canadianliving.com/life/community/torontos_gay_and_lesbian_community_a_brief_history.php

- History: The Toronto Dyke Scene
http://section15.ca/features/reviews/2004/06/15/toronto_dyke_history