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Nulle œuvre n'est une île :
Collaborative Practices in the
French-Speaking World

Paroles Gelées
UCLA French Studies

Volume 25
Summer 2009

Selected Proceedings from
the Thirteenth Annual UCLA Department of
French and Francophone Studies
Graduate Student Conference
October 23–24, 2008

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Rabelais, *Le Quart Livre*

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the Thirteenth Annual UCLA Department of
French and Francophone Studies
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Volume 25
Summer 2009

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Charting Collaborative Practices: Acknowledgements

Each issue of *Paroles gelées* requires the effort of various individuals to reach publication. As in years past, this issue includes selected proceedings from the Annual UCLA Department of French and Francophone Studies Graduate Student Conference. In the Fall of 2008, the students of our department were pleased to host colleagues from throughout the U.S. and Canada who came together to address the theme “Nulle œuvre n’est une île : Collaborative Practices in the French-Speaking World.” Dedicated to this topic, the current volume of *Paroles gelées* has relied perhaps more than ever before on the combined talents and commitment of the many who contributed to its development.

This year, the French and Francophone Studies graduate students voted in majority to move to online publication as a means to make our journal more accessible to the academic community and broader public, as well as promote environmentally sustainable practices at the university. We are therefore especially indebted to Stacey Meeker, Director of Publications for the UCLA Graduate Students Association, for providing invaluable support and expertise to ease its transition to electronic form.

Prior issues of *Paroles gelées* are now stored in The Internet Archive thanks to the assistance of Carol Nishijima and Bonnie Tijerina at the UCLA Young Research Library. They are likewise available in the University of California EScholarship Repository, along with this volume, thanks to the training and support provided by staff at the Berkeley Electronic Press. The editors would like to thank fellow

students Ruth Jones, Alexis Pernsteiner, Kate Schlosser and Hannah Vaughan for their conscientious readings to identify keywords in the numerous articles and interviews that *Paroles gelées* has published since 1983. Likewise, we thank the many students in our department who provided feedback on submissions for their attentive readings.

We are grateful to Julin Everett for the time and skill that she devoted to creating a new logo for our journal. Its juxtaposition of free-flowing letters against an ice-covered backdrop captures the contemporary spirit of Rabelais' words from *Le Quart Livre* that have served as a motto for *Paroles gelées* since its inception: "Ce serait le moment de philosopher et de rechercher si, par hasard, se trouvait ici l'endroit où de telles paroles dégèlent." Both our established motto and new logo reflect the vision of *Paroles gelées* not only as a product of academic discussion, but also as a forum to initiate new debates about research of interest to emerging scholars.

It is with this goal in mind that we aimed to inspire work on collaborative practices as a relatively uncharted field of literary and cultural study last October in Los Angeles. Co-organizers Leslie Barnes, Alisa Belanger and Julin Everett would like to thank all of the students who participated in the graduate conference as presenters, moderators, and volunteers. We thank Vera John-Steiner who offered useful theoretical concepts for examining the dynamics of pairs and groups in her keynote address, as well as thoughtful feedback to presenters throughout the conference. Special appreciation goes to Françoise Lionnet, Alain Mabanckou and Shu-mei Shih for graciously sharing insights into their own collaborative practices in the concluding round table, and to Lia Brozgal for skillfully leading their discussion.

In addition, we would like to extend our gratitude to Dominic Thomas, the Chair of French and Francophone

Studies, for his unfaltering confidence in the students of our department. We recognize the valuable support received from Laura Clennon throughout the planning process, and the technological assistance provided by Dave Nguyen of the Royce Humanities Group. Finally, we would like to thank the professors of Comparative Literature and French and Francophone Studies who offered us their guidance and attended the conference.

No chart could completely illustrate all of the collaborative efforts that made this conference and issue of *Paroles gelées* possible. Both owe their existence to the continued support of the UCLA community. The inspiration for our current collaboration as Editors-in-Chief comes from our first joint project, a presentation for François Lionnet's autobiography seminar offered in the winter of 2005. It is our sincerest hope that the digitalization of the *Paroles gelées* archives, its shift to online publishing, our interdepartmental collaboration, and the ongoing research of the scholars represented here will reinforce the sense of shared community that we so deeply appreciate at the university.

This electronic publication of selected proceedings continues to depend on an allocation from the UCLA Graduate Students Association to ensure its distribution. We are thankful for its generous funding and hope that the innovative articles in this volume will kindle further interest in collaborative practices in the French-speaking world.

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