

In March, 1972, Kristeva signed an open letter in *Le Monde*, along with fifty other intellectuals, including Jean-Paul Sartre, protesting Soviet repression in Czechoslovakia. That same month, she sent a handwritten postcard to the Bulgarian Embassy in Paris. "Greetings from Belgium," it read. "I'm at a conference—afterward I'm going on vacation—I'll call you after the holidays. Long Live the People's Power!" It's addressed to a Monsieur Draganov. In a newspaper interview this spring, Kristeva denied knowing anyone of that name; later, she told *Vanity Fair* that she sent the postcard, but that it was meant to be ironic.

One of the most striking features of the Sabina dossier is its ordinariness. Kristeva furnishes apartments, goes on vacations, jumps at career opportunities, asks for passports, takes care of a baby. She is shrewd enough to wheel and deal with half-witted intelligence officers but otherwise seems unexceptional. In April, Kristeva told the German newspaper *Die Zeit*, "The person in this dossier does not resemble me."

One of the last items preserved in Kristeva's dossier is an extensive interview titled "What Is the Function of Intellectuals?," which she gave to *Le Nouvel Observateur*, in 1977. It was translated into Bulgarian—twenty typewritten pages—by State Security workers. It is one of Kristeva's best interviews. She discusses her largely romantic flirtation with the French Communist Party and Maoism, and how she outgrew and rejected both. She defends the independent position of the intellectual as a dissident who shouldn't serve political parties, ideologies, or collective agendas, and should preserve "strangeness, oddity, and distance." At the end of the interview, alluding to Freud's book "Totem and Taboo," Kristeva says, "In the current situation, when an intellectual cannot honestly hide himself, the only thing he could do is to preserve the Freudian truth, according to which every society is created on the basis of a collective crime. We need to search for this crime in all societies, with a maximum degree of honesty." The State Security officer who read the interview thickly underlined the passage.

«Was the Philosopher Julia Kristeva a Cold War Collaborator?»
By Dimiter Kenarov, *New Yorker* 3/9 2018

I WANT TO BE CLOSE TO THE CORPSE OF THE PAINTING / AT RISK / OLYMPIA / CLOSE TO THE KNIVES / CLOSE TO YOU / SHE CARRIES THE IMAGES THROUGH THE CITY / HIDING SCROLLS INSIDE / A MASTER THIEF / TOO VANILLA? / YOU WITCH! / THE PAINTINGS ARE JUST A STONES THROW FROM HERE / ALONG THE COAST / IN SIGNAL BUILDINGS / DISPLAY CABINETS OF WEALTH / LOITERING ON THE SHORES OF THE NATION STATE / DESPAIR IN AN OVERFILLED BOAT / DESPAIR ON A CRUISE SHIP / ENNUI VOICED BY DEAD MEN / HELLO DAVID FOSTER WALLACE! I AM NOT NAKED / THAT WOULD BE TOO ROMANTIC! "The person in this dossier does not resemble me."

BUT SHE KEEPS ON LIVING / SMALL DEATH KEEPS ON GIVING / THE MOTHER CARES FOR THE CHILDREN CLINGING TO HER AS THE BOAT SINKS / WORK OF NO MEASURABLE VALUE? / MILK / NAJADE / OIL / THE WHALE HAS SUCKLINGS UNDER WATER / HOW IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE / LETS TALK ABOUT SPILT MILK / THE ABOLITIONISTS AND THE SUFFRAGETTES MADE A COALITION TO STOP WORKERS DRINKING THEMSELVES TO DEATH SO WOMEN COULD BE EMANCIPATED / CUT THROAT NORWAY AFTER THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION / DROWNING ITS OWN IN POTATO SPIRITS BEFORE THE OIL / WOMENS VOTE 1913! / WOMEN DIE ON THE SHORE / AT THE GATES OF VIENNA / IN BED / IN THE CABIN / OUT THE WINDOW AND AFLOAT /

/ ABANDON THE OLD / NEW SPEECH NOW / NO GOOD / NO GODS / CAN SAVE THE NATION STATE / THE HAUNT OF VULNERABLE BODIES / KNOWS NO ETHICS / SO DONT GO MORALIZING ON ME

GO DDDOWN ON ME / INTO ME / GET OUT OF ME / MY VOICE TURNS THE DISEASE OF SILENCE INTO A REVOLUTION / YOU SAY SHE / I SAY WE / SO TO HELL WITH KNAUSGARD / ALONG HIS COASTLINE / LICK - Y - MILK / THIS STORY IS GENERAL / VOICED BY BODIES MARKING THE EPHEMERAL / I AM DEATH WALKING / BECAUSE SHE CANT BE WE / DRIED OUT WITCHES DONT PROCREATE / FROM MILK / TO POISON / AGEING / INFERTILE / LAUGHING MEDUSA "The person in this dossier does not resemble me."

MARTHA ROSLER COINED "THE TIME OF SILENCE" / COVERING THE YEARS AFTER YOUTH AND BEFORE OLD AGE / DONT GO CLAIMING YOU DISCOVERED ME / WAS IN PLAIN SIGHT THIS WHOLE TIME / CARRYING RADICAL MOMENTS / TRANSFERABLE WITH THE BODYS MOST BEAUTIFUL PROTEIN LIQUIDS / LICK A TEARDROP / SUCK SPERM / LOOKING AT BLOOD / ANA MENDIETA DIDNT FALL / SHE WAS KILLED / ITS ALL IN THE NUANCES / I REFUSE TO ACCEPT THAT DEAD MEN GO ON LIVING AND THOSE WHO IDENTIFY AS WOMEN DISAPPEAR WHILE THEY ARE STILL ALIVE

