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Review of Paula Gunn Allen

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of Paula Gunn Allen's work. As Hanson suggests, to know something about Allen's life and work is "to gain insight into the transformative art" that reveals Allen's "exceptionally acute visionary power" (p. 5). Hanson maintains that this visionary power and the creativity to which it gives rise are consequences of Allen's situatedness outside Native American and Anglo-American culture. Hanson describes this particular situatedness as that of the "breed," a metaphor for the unique personal, spiritual, and aesthetic experience of writers such as Paula Gunn Allen (pps. 5, 8). Because Hanson perceives this situatedness as the wellspring of Allen's creativity and the consciousness that informs "her most important critical ideas," Hanson begins her discussion of Allen's work with a short biography that also compares Allen's personal and aesthetic experience with that of Leslie Silko. Subsequent sections focus on Allen's literary criticism and pedagogical concerns, her poetry and fiction, and her "tribal-feminism."

Hanson's insistent and persistent use of a questionable term as her principal metaphor for exploring the concept of a "divided self" may be problematic. And her reading of Allen, at turns, is too much informed by ideologies of linearity, binary dualism, and the "conflict-crisis-resolution" theory of Western thought—all notions antithetical to traditional Native American thought. But for the most part, Hanson's summary and examination of Paula Allen's work is sound, insightful, lucid, and a welcome addition to the gradually growing body of scholarship on a most significant voice in American and Native American life and culture.

Paula Gunn Allen. By Elizabeth I. Hanson. Western Writers Series, No. 96. Boise, Idaho: Boise State University, 1990. Selected bibliography. 50 pp. \$3.95.

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Elizabeth Hanson's *Paula Gunn Allen* is a very good overview of the extensive body of work of an important scholar, critic, and writer. Through a balance of summary and critical analysis, Hanson examines the content, style, and purpose