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All efforts to render politics aesthetic culminate in one thing: war.

Walter Benjamin, *Illuminations*

Look to your reputations, which are undermined with your own Follies, and do not become the idle Sisters of foolish Don Quixote, to believe every vain Fable which you read or to think you may be attired like Bradamant, who was often taken for Ricardetto, her brother; that you may fight like Marfiza and win husbands with conquest; or ride astride like Claridiana and make Giants fall at your stirrups. The Morals will give you better meanings, which if you shun and take the gross imitations, the first will deprive you of all good society; the second, of noble affections; and the third, of all beloved modesty. You shall lose all the charms of women's natural perfections . . .

*Hic Mulier; or, The Man-Woman: Being a
Medicine to cure the Coltish Disease of the
Staggers in the Masculine-Feminines of our
Times* (Anonymous pamphlet, 1620)

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