**Seven Shades of a Suicidal Self: Aesthetics, Ethics and Gender Politics of Marina Carr’s re-Imagining of Female Characters in Ancient Greek Drama**

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Treading the historical trajectory of tragedy from ancient Greek to contemporary drama, what strikes us as the common thread is the way female characters have been associated with transgression, liminality, spectrality, sacrifice, death, and a death-oriented or deadly desire. The works of the Irish dramatist Marina Carr, replete with transgressive female characters who straddle Eros and Thanatos, heterodox and orthodox and victimhood and monstrosity, constitute a paradigmatic case in point. More specifically, Carr’s works abound in instances of female suicide. However, the act of suicide, as various thinkers including Freud, Marcuse, Critchley, Lacan and Butler have variously discerned, far from revealing either a merely pathological desire for death or political resignationism, exposes subtler existential-ethical and socio-political impetuses underlying it. Whilst the acts of suicide, in Carr’s plays, are appropriated as a(n) (im-)proper way of transgression and self-expression, they are not devoid of their profound ethical, political and metaphysical ambiguities. This essay, accordingly, ponders and probes the aesthetic, ethic, and psychological complexities of the act of suicide as depicted in Carr’s plays, thereby demonstrating the ways in which a melancholy mode of femininity can be perceived to involve a simultaneously psychopathological symptom and a liberating socio-political act. Furthermore, in carving her transgressive female characters, Carr consciously incorporates and evokes resonances with female protagonists in ancient Greek drama in various respects. Establishing these parallels, this essay demonstrates how through maintaining this existential-ethical and historical bifocality, Carr accentuates the ways in which she seeks to revision the normative-phallogocentric past and envision a future that does not stem from the determinations of the hegemonic horizon of the present socio-symbolic order.