

Books

In the 1970s, the domestic book production from which Greek feminists could draw theoretical and other material was quite limited and low-quality. In addition to Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex*, already published in 1958, a list of "books on the female issue" was included in the first issue of the newspaper "For the Liberation of Women" [*Gia tin Apeleftherosi ton Gynaikon*] (1978), comprising 49 books of which only 10 were written by feminist theorists (Geer, Wood, Mitchell, Reed, Rowbotham, Groult, and earlier authors such as Goldman and Kollontai) – and the rest were from the fields of psychology, anthropology, sociology, Marxist theory etc. Some books presented the views and policies of the international and domestic communist left regarding women, and only 6 were focusing on the position of women under the existing legal and employment framework in Greece.

In the early 1980s, there was a proliferation of remarkable feminist literature through the women's journal *Broom* [*Skoupa*], the books of the Women's Publishing Group [*Ekdotiki Omada Gynaikon*] and the ever-increasing presence of feminists in public life. However, domestic book production never managed to cover the entire spectrum of the literature published abroad. This gap was partly filled in by the libraries of feminists who had studied or lived abroad and brought journals and books back to Greece – for example the library of the Group of Foreign Women [*Omada Xenon Gynaikon*] at the House of Women [*Spiti Gynaikon*].

In addition to theoretical texts, the novels of women authors from Greece or abroad –translated into Greek– largely contributed to the formation of a female collective consciousness at the time.

The books presented in this section of the exhibition come from the warehouses of the two feminist bookstores of Athens – "The Book/ The Child [*To Vivlio/ To Paidi*]", later renamed "Selana" (38, Sina Str.) and "The Women's Bookstore [*To Vivliopoleio ton Gynaikon*]" (20, Massalias & Skoufa Str.) – collections of women's associations and personal libraries of women that were obtained by and kept in the library of "Delfys" Women's Archive.

