

**Millie Wilson**

Born in Hot Springs, Arkansas, 1948. Infatuated with a series of women who were teachers or neighbors. Passionate literary friendships with other teenage girls. Studied at the Yale Summer School of Music and Art, 1970, and the University of Texas at Austin; BFA, 1971. Fell in love with at least two women, one of whom is now a famous artist. Got married, 1973. Became best friends with husband's ex-lover. Read Adrienne Rich and Monique Wittig. Finally did some work that got shown in lots of places, 1977. Got a studio and a haircut, 1987. Fell in love with another woman and came out, 1979. Got divorced and went to graduate school at the University of Houston; MFA, 1983. Taught at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1983-85, where being the only out lesbian in the department inspired some of her male colleagues to uncover the Amazon Conspiracy. Discovered the lesbian to be the conspicuous absence in postmodern theory. Visiting Artist at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, November, 1986, where the women students in painting needed someone to talk to. Dressed up as a Joycean dandy for Halloween, 1987, and bar-hopped on Santa Monica Boulevard with a hot guy from Toronto. Boys tried to pick her up. Decided to make lesbian cross-dressing an issue in her work, 1988. Gave paper as panelist on topic of appropriation, 1989. Chose to speak of thievery by the disenfranchised and insisted that to be a woman painting is to be engaged in aesthetic cross-dressing. Continued research on Romaine Brooks and Gluck, the lesbian artists of early modernism. Currently Acting Director of the Program in Art at the California Institute of the Arts where she has taught since 1985.