Nolwenn Le Pape

1. Eva Hayward reworks transsexual identity through the encounter with a starfish in a song by Anthony and the Johnsons. How does the starfish’s capacity for regrowth reconfigure the experience of transsexual surgery beyond the medical trope of gender dysphoria and being born in the wrong body? Explain how the cut is generative and what Hayward means when she writes that the transsexual is ‘of’ her body?

Eva Hayward, uses a metaphor involving the starfish to talk about the experience of transsexuals. Thus, she studies the starfish's ability to grow back to express her own feelings about castration, the surgery used by transsexuals. The act of "cutting" also becomes an act of repair, of regrowth. It is the act which allows a physical and psychic regrowth. People "born in the wrong body" can then feel whole. The cut appears as a repair. This reparative act allows the transsexual to be "of" her body, to express herself from it, to be repaired by it.

1. How do you understand the notion of trans-speciation? What does Hayward mean when referring to the starfish as being “more than a metaphor”? (How does she understand metaphor differently from merely a figure of speech? (pp. 74-76, optional).

"Trans-specification" can be understood as a way of "reworking the relationality of male and female, human and animal". Physical change involves an emotional experience. There is a coexistence and everyone is formed through meeting others.

Hayward understands the met star as "more than a metaphor", it is an experience, there is a similarity, a resemblance. The starfish is the image of revelation through regrowth.