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Autore	Kord Susanne
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Nota di contenuto	Introduction: Aesthetic Evasions and Social Consequences -- ; 1. Back to Nature: Bourgeois Aesthetic Theory and Lower-Class Poetic Practice -- Visionaries: The Artist As Servant, God, or Vegetable -- Window Shoppers: The Servant As Artist -- ; 2. Wild and the Civilized: Poet Making -- Wages of Suffering and the Wages of Sin: Class Issues and Literary Patronage -- "Menial Maids, with No Release from Toil": Some Paradigms -- "The Poet's Silence is the Triumph of Taste": The Case of Anna Louisa Karsch -- "Drive Your Cows from the Foot of Parnassus": The Case of Ann Yearsley -- ; 3. Life As the Work: Counterfeit Confessions, Bogus Biographies, Literary Lives -- Arcadian Shepherdesses and Toiling Peasants: On Poetry and Poverty -- German Sappho: Controversies Surrounding a Legend -- Man or a Mother? Anna Louisa Karsch Forgets Her Gender -- Beauty and the Beasts: Fairy Tale Imagery -- Unhappy Endings: Biographical Punishment -- ; 4. Literature of Labor: Poetic Images of Country Life -- Physical Labor and Poetic "Idleness" -- Rural Realities I: Pastoral Landscapes and Village Scenes -- Rural Realities II: The Rustic at Work -- Pastorals and Power: Social and Aesthetic Considerations -- ; 5. Inspired by Nature, Inspired

by Love: Two Poets on Poetic Inspiration -- Rural Muse: On Nature Inspiration and Book Learning -- Under Love's Spell: Authors and Readers -- ; 6. Of Patrons and Critics: Reading the Bourgeois Reader -- Reading the Reader: Of Critics and Posterity -- Castle-Building: Of Patrons and Their Empty Promises -- Conclusion: On the Gender and Class of Art -- App.: Short Biographies of Women Peasant Poets.

Sommario/riassunto

This is the first comparative study of a highly unlikely group of authors: eighteenth-century women peasants in England, Scotland, and Germany, women who, as a rule, received little or no formal education and lived by manual labor, many of them in dire poverty. Among them are the English washerwoman Mary Collier, the English domestic servants Elizabeth Hands and Molly Leapor, the German cowherd Anna Louisa Karsch, the Scottish diarywoman Janet Little, the Scottish domestic servant Christian Milne, and the English milkmaid Ann Cromartie Yearsley. Their literature is here linked with one of the major eighteenth-century aesthetic trends in all three countries, the Natural Genius craze, which culminated in highland primitivism in Scotland and England, and in the 'Sturm und Drang' in Germany. Kord's analysis of the peasant women's works and the bourgeois response enables us to find new answers to questions that have centrally influenced our thinking about what makes art Art. Kord's book provides a fresh look at some of this fascinating literature, and at the roles and attitudes of the lower classes and of women in the Art world of the day. It also advances a revolutionary thesis: that the eighteenth-century bourgeoisie established itself as the dominant cultural class not primarily, as is commonly held, in opposition to aristocratic culture, but more importantly through its dissociation from and suppression of lower-class art forms. SUSANNE KORD is Professor and Head of the Department of German at University College London. Her book 'Little Detours: The Letters and Plays of Luise Gottsched' was published by Camden House in 2000.