

Susan McEachern - Clip 16

## Utopia and Harmony

I think that, yeah, we do want a utopian existence. I mean we are striving for progress, striving for change, striving to make things better... and certainly, you know, feminism and, you know, any kind of social, political movement... that the goal is to make things better. And so much of, you know, mass culture or... entertainment industry is based on certain kinds of narratives, the connection of narratives to pleasure, so when I look at *The Creation of Desire* and *The Stories That We Are Told* in pulp fiction let's say, they are stories that are not utopian, they are stories about... about discord, about ... particularly between genders, of people not getting along, either on gender lines, or race lines, or class lines, and having that very bound up in desire and sexuality. And so going to another kind of utopia, which is a feminist utopia, which Marge Piercy or Ursula LeGuin have put forward, are visions, I mean, just, you know, reside for awhile, you know, in an imaginary world where there is no racism, where either men or women can become impregnated, you know, the King can be pregnant. How do the social structures then fall around those? Imagine what happens when some of the differences between genders and between races, however, are erased. What would a world in which people were equal look like? How would we share? What is the human capacity for ...for doing better than we're currently doing? And I find that to be, while not

necessarily around the corner, certainly something that we should be striving for

