



# Writing Madness: Borderlines of the Body in African Literature

*Flora Veit-Wild*

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## **Writing Madness: Borderlines of the Body in African Literature** Flora Veit-Wild

Introducing the perspective of 'writing madness' into African literature means seeing that literature from a different angle, through the lenses of writers who have ruffled up the surface of realist representation and have explored issues and styles that represent a trespassing of borders, introducing an element of risk and instability. This study follows the transformation from colonial narratives projecting settlers' horror of the 'heart of darkness' onto the African body and mind, to African writers' interaction with these narratives and their own projections of what constitutes madness in a colonial and postcolonial world, and an analysis of how writing by women displays the gendered violence of the process of mental colonisation. FLORA VEIT-WILD is Professor in the African Studies Dept at the Humboldt University, Berlin. North America: Tsehail/African Academic; South Africa: Jacana; Zimbabwe: Weaver Press

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