

*Abstract: History of literature has been for two hundred years a European way of talking about values, power and morality. Recently, whether they be European or not, some literary historians have come up to criticize, from within, this noble intellectual discourse. But this critique doesn't fit its goal without a place from which it can be uttered. While French scholars like Gilles Philippe have proceeded to delineate a history of literary style in modern French literature, other literary historians, writing in English, are searching for a cultural paradigm of frenchness. One of subsequent questions they put throughout their approaches is: What is it like to be European? We choose to take in this respect the point of view of Christie Mc Donald and Susan Rubin Suleiman, authors of an important book on literary history in 2010: French Global. A New Approach to Literary History. What is at stake in their work? Our answer is simple: the idea of literature, as Europe has put it from the beginning of the modern age.*