

**Chutong Wang**

*Cambridge, MA, USA*

*Harvard University*

**In Her Own Words: The Image of Ice, Snow and Glass in A. S. Byatt's *Possession***

In "Ice, Snow, Glass", a beautifully-written essay included in *On Histories and Stories*, A. S. Byatt discusses how stony and frozen images have triggered her own imagination, which include the undisturbed whiteness of *Snow White*, the power of mathematical reason and beauty of *Snow Queen*, and the at once dead and not dead queen Hermione as an art in itself in *The Winter's Tale*. The image of ice, snow and glass could be a distance as well as an intimacy, as a way to protect art from biological cycles or repetitive generations. I will explore how the image of ice, snow and glass are depicted and represented in her celebrated novel, *Possession*, and argue that readers can get closer to her literary landscape with reference to her own thoughts on images.