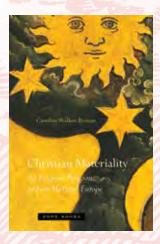


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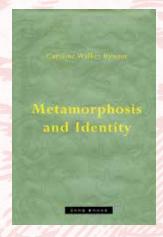
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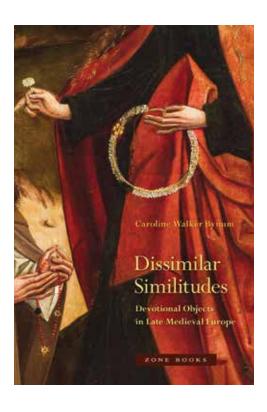
— Rachel Jagareski, Foreword Reviews

"Caroline Walker Bynum is America's foremost scholar of medieval religion."

- The New York Review of Books

"Bynum is asking that even while we deploy all the tricks and tools of modern historical analysis, we take seriously the obligation to marvel at the complexity, at the otherness, of the medieval world, a world that we will never perfectly understand and yet that seems to point to something worth understanding." — Patrick J. Geary, *The New Republic* 

Caroline Walker Bynum is Professor emerita of Medieval European History at the Institute for Advanced Study, and University Professor emerita at Columbia University. Her book Fragmentation and Redemption was awarded the Lionel Trilling Award and an American Academy of Religion Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion. Bynum is also the author of Holy Feast and Holy Fast: The Religious Significance of Food to Medieval Women.



#### Caroline Walker Bynum

### Dissimilar Similitudes

**Devotional Objects** in Late Medieval Europe

History 352 pp. | 97 illus. | 6 x 9 978-1-942130-37-6 cloth \$32.95

Between the twelfth and the sixteenth centuries, European Christians worshipped with a surprising plethora of things: not only prayer books, statues, and paintings, but also pieces of stone and earth thought to be infused with sacred power; dolls that represented Jesus and Mary; even bits of consecrated bread and wine understood as miraculously preserved flesh and blood. Theologians and ordinary worshippers alike explained, utilized, justified, and warned against objects which might, at the same time, testify to violent anti-Semitism and to the glorious promise of heaven. The proliferation and the reaction to such holy objects form a crucial, yet often overlooked and misunderstood, background to the European movements we know today as the Protestant and Catholic "reformations."

In a set of independent but interrelated essays, Caroline Walker Bynum considers examples of such holy things—beds for the baby Jesus, headdresses of medieval nuns, and linen strings that pilgrims returning from the Holy Land had cut to the measure of Christ's footprints. Continuing and expanding on her work on the history of materiality, Bynum offers two arguments, one substantive, the other methodological. First, she demonstrates that the objects themselves communicate a paradox of dissimilar similitude: in their very details these objects of worship both image the glory of heaven and show the impossibility of representing heaven in earthly things. Second, Bynum uses the theme of likeness and unlikeness to interrogate current practices of comparative history. She proposes that contemporary students of religion, art, and culture should avoid comparing things that merely "look alike." Instead, they should embrace a cross-cultural comparison of objects which worshippers and theorists alike identify as the locus of the "other" that gives religion its enduring power.

AN EXCERPT FROM "'MURDER MOST FOUL' AND THE HAUNTING OF AMERICA,"
AN ESSAY BY TIMOTHY HAMPTON ON BOB DYLAN'S LATEST MUSICAL RELEASE

In the years since his visionary 1960s work, Dylan has turned to a variety of narrative forms to represent the sweep of national history. And now comes "Murder Most Foul," the 17-minute song released this past March, in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, against the backdrop of Donald Trump's daily flood of lies and insults from the house where Lincoln, Roosevelt, and Kennedy slept.

"Murder Most Foul" is about the assassination of JFK. But it is also about what constitutes an event, and about how an event takes on meaning beyond itself. At still another level, it is about the haunting of America, about the role of spirit in the national life. The title comes from Shakespeare's Hamlet, where the ghost of old Hamlet tells his son of his death: "Murder most foul, as in the best it is" (that is, all murders are foul), but "this most foul, strange and unnatural" (because fratricide and in secret), must be avenged. So we are in the land of ghosts, of the death of the "king," as Dylan calls Kennedy at one point.

Around the turn of this century Dylan wrote several albums of songs that dealt with the idea of the ruin, the fragment, the broken shard. In "Murder Most Foul" he offers something similar, except now in sonic terms. What is the "voice" that can guide America after Kennedy? It is the voice of our music, of the echoes that come from the radio across the border. And through those echoes the event of Kennedy's death resonates as well. "Murder Most Foul" is not merely a celebration of the power of art. Like Hamlet, it is about how illusions and fictions seep into our very being. The point seems to be that when we are haunted we slip easily, almost imperceptibly, in and out of art, proverb, cliché.

"This is an essential Dylan book and unlike any other. Hampton left me with a deeper appreciation of Dylan's uniqueness as both songwriter and singer — his methods, his lyrical and poetic brilliance, his many voices." — Dean Wareham, musician (Galaxie 500, Luna) and author of Black Postcards

"With a style that turns analysis into a form of suspense, Timothy Hampton can walk you through 'Visions of Johanna' or 'Summer Days' the way the art historian T. J. Clark can walk you through Manet's Olympia. There's the same generosity of spirit, the same love for the work and the social meanings it absorbs, transforms, and sends back. You really do begin to get a sense of how the songs work — Bob Dylan's songs, but anyone's songs, too — how they are assembled or assemble themselves."

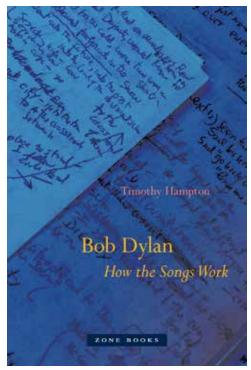
— Greil Marcus, author of Under the Red White and Blue: Patriotism, Disenchantment and the Stubborn Myth of the Great Gatsby



NEW IN PAPERBACK

Bob Dylan

**How the Songs Work** 



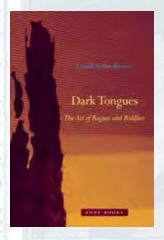
Music and Sound Studies 288 pp. | 6 x 9 978-1-942130-36-9 paper \$21.95 978-1-942130-15-4 cloth \$29.95 978-1-942130-55-0 ebook

Bob Dylan's reception of the 2016 Nobel Prize for Literature has elevated him beyond the world of popular music, establishing him as a major modern artist. However, until now, no study of his career has focused on the details and nuances of the songs, showing how they work as artistic statements designed to create meaning and elicit emotion. *Bob Dylan: How the Songs Work* is the first comprehensive book on both the poetics and politics of Dylan's compositions. It studies Dylan, not as a pop hero, but as an artist, as a maker of songs. Focusing on the interplay of music and lyric, it traces Dylan's innovative use of musical form, his complex manipulation of poetic diction, and his dialogues with other artists, from Woody Guthrie to Arthur Rimbaud. Moving from Dylan's earliest experiments with the blues, through his mastery of rock and country, up to his densely allusive recent recordings, Timothy Hampton offers a detailed account of Dylan's achievement. Locating Dylan in the long history of artistic modernism, the book studies the relationship between form, genre, and the political and social themes that crisscross Dylan's work. *Bob Dylan: How the Songs Work* offers both a nuanced engagement with the work of a major artist and a meditation on the contribution of song at times of political and social change.

"Hampton's detailed-laden study of text and form in *Bob Dylan: How the Songs Work* is a resource of literary-musical interpretation to start from and return to – and will likely prove to be indispensable." – *Los Angeles Review of Books* 

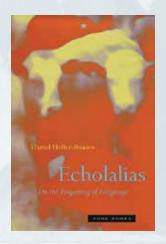
Timothy Hampton is Professor of Comparative Literature and French at the University of California, Berkeley. He is the author, most recently, of *Fictions of Embassy: Literature* and *Diplomacy in Early Modern Europe*.

#### ALSO BY DANIEL HELLER-ROAZEN



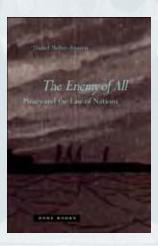
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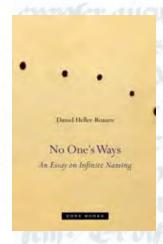
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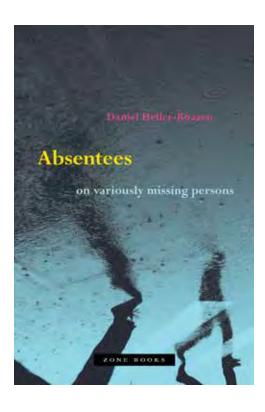
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#### Daniel Heller-Roazen

### Absentees

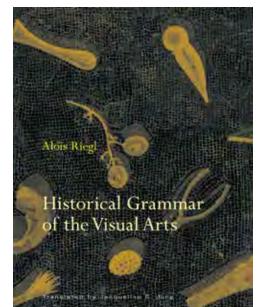
On Variously Missing Persons

Philosophy 320 pp. | 2 Illus. | 6 x 9 978-1-942130-47-5 cloth \$33.00 978-1-942130-48-2 ebook

In thirteen interlocking chapters, Absentees explores the role of the missing in human communities, asking an urgent question: How does a person become a nonperson, whether by disappearance, disenfranchisement, or civil, social, or biological death? Only somebody can become a "nobody," but, as Daniel Heller-Roazen shows, the ways of being a nonperson are as diverse and complex as they are mysterious and unpredictable. Heller-Roazen treats the variously missing persons of the subtitle in three parts: Vanishings, Lessenings, and Survivals. In each section and with multiple transhistorical and transcultural examples, he challenges the categories that define nonpersons in philosophy, ethics, law, and anthropology. Exclusion, infamy, and stigma; mortuary beliefs and customs; children's games and state censuses; ghosts and "dead souls" illustrate the lives of those lacking or denied full personhood. In the archives of fiction, Heller-Roazen uncovers figurations of the missing - from Helen of Argos in Troy or Egypt to Hawthorne's Wakefield, Swift's Captain Gulliver, Kafka's undead hunter Gracchus, and Chamisso's long-lived shadowless Peter Schlemihl. Readers of The Enemy of All and No One's Ways will find a continuation of those books' intense intellectual adventures, with unexpected questions and arguments arising every step of the way. In a unique voice, Heller-Roazen's thought and writing capture the intricacies of the all-too-human absent and absented.

"With Absentees, Heller-Roazen has produced yet another tour de force of eloquence and erudition. Absentees is essential reading for anyone interested in the legal or literary treatment of personhood in all its forms, whether dead, missing, diminished, or presumptively whole." —Bernadette Meyler, Stanford University

Daniel Heller-Roazen is the Arthur W. Marks '19 Professor of Comparative Literature and the Council of Humanities at Princeton University.



**NEW IN PAPERBACK** 

#### **Aloïs Riegl**

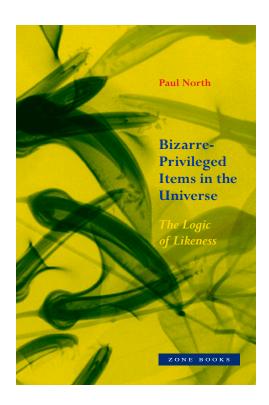
## Historical Grammar of the Visual Arts

Art History 496 pp. | 30 illus. | 6 x 9 978-1-890951-46-7 paper \$28.95

Aloïs Riegl (1858–1905) was one of the greatest modern art historians. The most important member of the so-called "Vienna School," Riegl developed a highly refined technique of visual or formal analysis, as opposed to the iconological method with its emphasis on decoding motifs through recourse to texts. Riegl also pioneered understanding of the changing role of the viewer, the significance of non-high art objects or what would now be called visual or material culture, and theories of art and art history, including his much-debated neologism Kunstwollen (the will of art). At last, his *Historical Grammar of the Visual Arts*, which brings together the diverse threads of his thought, is available to an English-language audience, in a superlative translation by Jacqueline E. Jung. In one of the earliest and perhaps the most brilliant of all art historical "surveys," Riegl addresses the different visual arts within a sweeping conception of the history of culture. His account derives from Hegelian models but decisively opens onto alternative pathways that continue to complicate attempts to reduce art merely to the artist's intentions or its social and historical functions.

"Riegl's acute, holistic definition of art's formal properties, his trenchant analysis of artworks' visual syntax, and his profound comprehension of the visual character of artistic thought remain as timely as ever." — Richard Brilliant, Columbia University

The major works of Aloïs Riegl previously translated into English include *Problems of Style:* Foundations for a History of Ornament, Late Roman Art Industry, and The Group Portraiture of Holland.



#### **Paul North**

## Bizarre-Privileged Items in the Universe

The Logic of Likeness

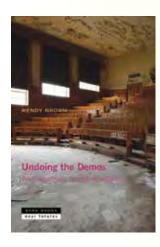
Philosophy 336 pp. | 4 color + 5 b&w illus. | 6 x 9 978-1-942130-46-8 cloth \$33.00 978-1-942130-49-9 ebook

A butterfly is like another butterfly, but a butterfly is also like a leaf, and at the same time like a paper airplane, an owl's face, a scholar flitting from book to book. The most disparate things intersect in a butterfly, a dense nodule of likeness Roger Caillois once named a "bizarre-privileged item." Critical theorist Paul North proposes a spiritual exercise: imagine that the universe is made up solely of such likenesses. There are no things; only traits acting according to the law of series. After centuries of thought focused on the concept of difference, this book offers a theory that begins from likeness, where, at any instant, a vast array of series proliferates and remote regions of being come into contact. This is the new science to which North writes a prolegomenon. Bizarre-Privileged Items in the Universe follows likenesses as they traverse physics and the physical universe; evolution and evolutionary theory; psychology and the psyche; sociality, language, and art. Disparate sources from an eccentric history help give shape to the trans-science "homeotics."

"Likeness looks like a relation that is both too obvious and too 'bizarre,' likely because it has been used and abused by a few lyric and surrealist poets. As a result, dogmatists and suspicious minds have held it in low esteem. Paul North overturns all these prejudices in a sort of tractatus poetico-philosophicus — at once free and rigorous, impertinent and lucid... A 'grammatology' of difference and of repetition, Bizarre-Privileged Items in the Universe is a philosophical tour de force." — Georges Didi-Huberman, professor at the École des hautes études en sciences sociales

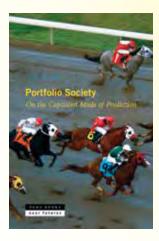
Paul North is Professor of German at Yale University. He is the author of *The Problem of Distraction* and *The Yield: Kafka's Atheological Reformation*.

Reckoning with the epochal nature of the turn that capitalism has taken in the last three decades, the editors of *Near Futures* seek to assemble a series of books that will illuminate its manifold implications — with regard to the production of value and values, the missions or disorientations of social and political institutions, the yearnings, reasoning, and conduct expected of individuals. However, the purpose of this project is not only to take stock of what neoliberal reforms and the dictates of finance have wrought. *Near Futures* also purports to chart some of the new conflicts and forms of activism elicited by the advent of our brave new world.



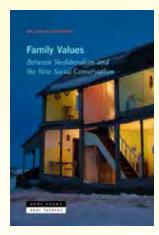
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REVOLUTION

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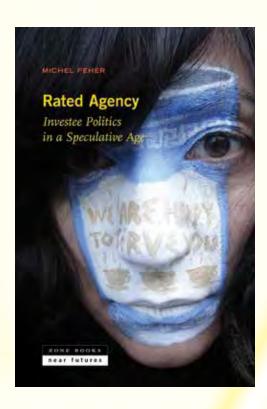
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#### Michel Feher

## Rated Agency

Investee Politics in a Speculative Age

Political Science | Philosophy 192 pp. | 6 x 8 978-1-942130-12-3 cloth \$25.95T

The hegemony of finance compels a new orientation for everyone and everything: companies care more about the moods of their shareholders than about longstanding commercial success; governments subordinate citizen welfare to appeasing creditors; and individuals are concerned less with immediate income from labor than with appreciation of their capital goods, skills, connections, and reputations. In this book, in clear and compelling prose, Michel Feher explains the extraordinary shift in conduct and orientation generated by financialization.

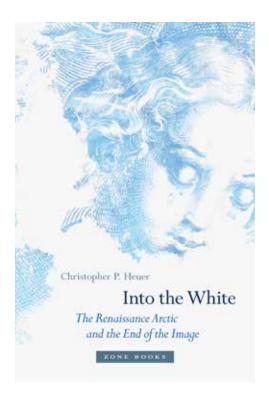
That firms, states, and people depend more on their ratings than on the product of their activities also changes how capitalism is resisted. For activists, the focus of grievances shifts from the extraction of profit to the conditions under which financial institutions allocate credit. While the exploitation of employees by their employers has hardly been curbed, the power of investors to select investees — to decide who and what is deemed creditworthy — has become a new site of social struggle. Above all, Feher articulates the new political resistances and aspirations that investees draw from their rated agency.

"Rated Agency is a must-read for anyone seeking to escape the melancholy of the

Trump era by building an effective progressive movement against a creeping dystopia."

— Yanis Varoufakis, author of Another Now

Michel Feher, a Belgian philosopher, is the author of *Powerless by Design: The Age of the International Community* and the editor of *Nongovernmental Politics* and *Europe at a Crossroads*, among other titles. Founder of Cette France-là, a monitoring group on French immigration policy, Feher is also a founding editor of Zone Books.



#### Christopher P. Heuer

### Into the White

The Renaissance Arctic and the End of the Image

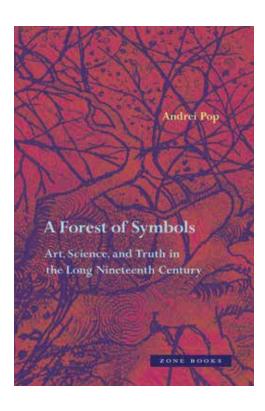
Art History 264 pp. | 72 illus. | 6 x 9 978-1-942130-14-7 cloth \$32.95 978-1-942130-30-7 ebook

European narratives of the Atlantic New World tell stories of people and things: strange flora, wondrous animals, sun-drenched populations for Europeans to mythologize or exploit. Yet, as Christopher Heuer explains, between 1500 and 1700, one region upended all of these conventions in travel writing, science, and, most unexpectedly, art: the Arctic. lcy, unpopulated, visually and temporally "abstract," the far North—a different kind of terra incognita for the Renaissance imagination—offered more than new stuff to be mapped, plundered, or even seen. Neither a continent, an ocean, nor a meteorological circumstance, the Arctic forced visitors from England, the Netherlands, Germany, and Italy, to grapple with what we would now call a "non-site," spurring dozens of previously unknown works, objects, and texts—and this all in an intellectual and political milieu crackling with Reformation debates over art's very legitimacy.

In *Into the White*, Heuer uses five case studies to probe how the early modern Arctic (as site, myth, and ecology) affected contemporary debates over perception and matter, representation, discovery, and the time of the earth—long before the nineteenth century romanticized the polar landscape. In the far North, he argues, the Renaissance exotic became something far stranger than the marvelous or the curious, something darkly material and impossible to be mastered, something beyond the idea of *image* itself.

"Heuer challenges the complacent understanding of 'the global Renaissance' and generates new ways of thinking across disciplinary boundaries." —Rebecca E. Zorach, Northwestern University

Christopher P. Heuer is Associate Professor of Art History at the University of Rochester and author of *Ecologies, Agents, and Terrains and Vision and Communism*.



#### **Andrei Pop**

# A Forest of Symbols

Art, Science, and Truth in the Long Nineteenth Century

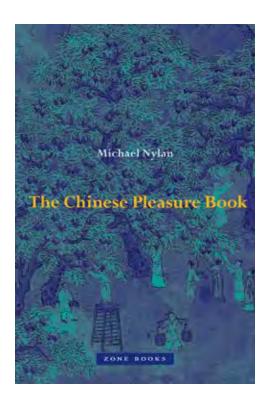
Art History
320 pp. | 101 b&w +
15 color illus. | 6 x 9
978-1-935408-36-9 cloth \$32.95
978-1-942130-33-8 ebook

In A Forest of Symbols, Andrei Pop presents a groundbreaking reassessment of those writers and artists in the late nineteenth century associated with the Symbolist movement. For Pop, "symbolist" denotes an art that is self-conscious about its modes of making meaning, and he argues that these symbolist practices, which sought to provide more direct access to viewers and readers by constant revision of its material means of meaning-making (brushstrokes on a canvas, words on a page), are crucial to understanding the genesis of modern art. The symbolists saw art not as a social revolution, but as a revolution in sense and how to conceptualize the world. The concerns of symbolist painters and poets were shared to a remarkable degree by theoretical scientists of the period, who were dissatisfied with the strict empiricism dominant in their disciplines, which made shared knowledge seem unattainable.

The problem of subjectivity in particular, of what in one's experience can and cannot be shared, was crucial to the possibility of collaboration within science and to the communication of artistic innovation. Pop offers close readings of the literary and visual practices of Manet and Mallarmé, of drawings by Ernst Mach, William James and Wittgenstein, of experiments with color by Bracquemond and Van Gogh, and of the philosophical systems of Frege and Russell — filling in a startling but coherent picture of the symbolist heritage of modernity and its consequences.

"Vibrant and lucid...a superb account of symbolism in art, ideas, and culture... grounded in a deep engagement with philsophical and literary reflections on the symbol." —Jas' Elsner, Oxford University

Andrei Pop is a member of the Committee on Social Thought and the Department of Art History at the University of Chicago.



#### Michael Nylan

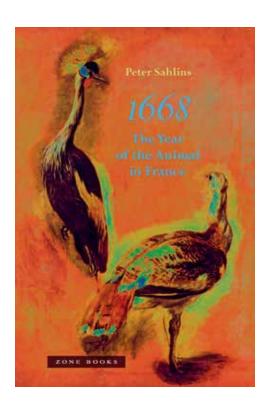
## The Chinese Pleasure Book

Philosophy | Asian Studies 472 pp. | 18 illus. | 6 x 9 978-1-942130-13-0 cloth \$32,95

In *The Chinese Pleasure Book*, Michael Nylan takes up one of the most important themes in Chinese thought: the relation of pleasurable activities to bodily health and the health of the body politic. In a notable contrast to Western writings on the subject, early Chinese writings oppose pleasure not with pain but with insecurity. All assume that it is right and proper to seek and take pleasure, as well as short-term delight, and all are equally certain that long-term relational pleasures are more easily sustained — as well as potentially more satisfying and less damaging. The pleasures that become deeper and more ingrained over the long term, as one invests time and effort into their cultivation, include friendship and music, sharing with others, developing integrity and greater clarity, reading and classical learning, and going home. Nylan explores each of these fields of activity through the early sources (mainly fourth century BC to the eleventh century AD), providing new translations for both well-known and seldom-cited texts.

"A fascinating exploration of 'pleasure' as understood by major thinkers of ancient China. Nylan's impeccable scholarship and psychological insight illuminate the ancient texts and their radical challenge to our contemporary Western subjectivism and individualism." — Herbert Fingarette, University of California, Santa Barbara

Michael Nylan is Professor in the Department of History at the University of California, Berkeley. Her recent publications include *Chang'an 26 BCE: An Augustan Age in China, Exemplary Figures* (a complete translation of Yang Xiong's *Fayan*), and *Yang Xiong and the Pleasures of Reading and Classical Learning in China.* 



#### **Peter Sahlins**

### 1668

## The Year of the Animal in France

WINNER OF THE 2018
J. RUSSELL MAJOR PRIZE

History 496 pp. | 123 b&w + 15 color illus. | 6 x 9 978-1-935408-99-4 cloth \$34.95 978-1-935408-29-1 ebook

Peter Sahlins's brilliant new book reveals the remarkable and understudied "animal moment" in and around 1668 in which authors, anatomists, painters, sculptors, and especially the young Louis XIV turned their attention to nonhuman beings. At the center of the Year of the Animal was the Royal Menagerie in the gardens of Versailles, dominated by exotic and graceful birds. In the unfolding of his original and sophisticated argument, Sahlins shows how the animal bodies of the menagerie and others were critical to a dramatic rethinking of governance, nature, and the human.

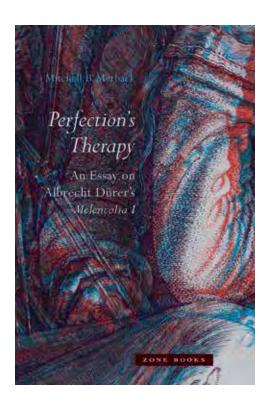
1668: The Year of the Animal in France explores and reproduces the king's animal collections—in printed text, weaving, poetry, and engraving, all seen from a unique interdisciplinary perspective. Sahlins brings the animals of 1668 together and to life as he observes them critically in their native habitats. The author joins the nonhuman and human agents of 1668—panthers and painters, swans and scientists, weasels and weavers—in a learned and sophisticated treatment that will engage scholars and students of early modern France and Europe and readers broadly interested in the subject of animals in human history.

"Sahlins's gorgeous new book brings a lost world back to life: that of the architects and virtuosi, artists, and courtiers who built and visited the menageries of Louis XIV...

Both philosophical and erudite history...as entertaining as it is original."

- Anthony T. Grafton, Princeton University

Peter Sahlins is an American historian of France and Europe. He is the author of several books, including *Unnaturally French: Foreign Citizens in the Old Regime and After* and *The War of Les Demoiselles in Nineteenth-Century France*.



#### Mitchell B. Merback

# Perfection's Therapy

An Essay on Albrecht Dürer's Melancholia I

Art History
320 pp. | 91 b&w +
1 color iillus. | 6 x 9
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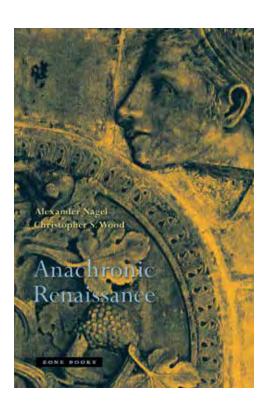
Albrecht Dürer's master engraving *Melencolia I* has stood for centuries as a pictorial summa of knowledge about melancholia and an allegory of the limits of earthbound arts and sciences. Zealously interpreted since the nineteenth century, the work also presides over the origins of modern iconology. Yet more than a century of research has left us with a tangle of mutually contradictory theories.

In *Perfection's Therapy*, Mitchell Merback discovers in *Melencolia*'s opacity a fascinating possibility: that Dürer's masterpiece is not only an arresting diagnosis of melancholic distress, but an innovative instrument for its undoing. Merback deftly analyzes the visual and narrative structure of Dürer's image, revisits its philosophical and medical contexts, and resituates it within the long history of the therapeutic artifact. Placing Dürer's project in dialogue with that of humanism's founder, Francesco Petrarch, Merback also unearths the German artist's ambition to act as a physician of the soul.

"Wide-ranging and accessible, this book recovers the ethos and pathos of Dürer's masterpiece while also opening a window to the troubled soul of Renaissance humanism."

—Joseph Leo Koerner, author of *The Moment of Self-Portraiture in German Renaissance*Art and Bosch and Bruegel

Mitchell B. Merback is the Arnell and Everett Land Professor at Johns Hopkins University in the Department of the History of Art. He is the author of *The Thief, the Cross and the Wheel: Pain and the Spectacle of Punishment in Medieval and Renaissance Europe and Pilgrimage and Pogrom: Violence, Memory and Visual Culture at the Host-Miracle Shrines of Germany and Austria.* 



#### Alexander Nagel Christopher S. Wood

## Anachronic Renaissance

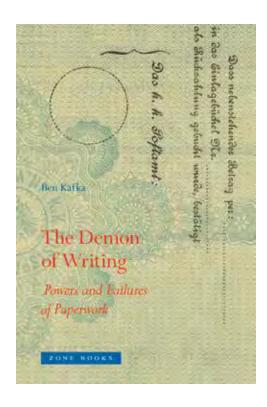
Art History | Renaissance History 456 pp. | 127 illus. | 7.25 x 11 978-1-942130-34-5 paper \$29.95 978-1-942130-43-7 ebook

In this widely anticipated book, two leading contemporary art historians offer a subtle and profound reconsideration of the problem of time in the Renaissance. Alexander Nagel and Christopher S. Wood examine the meanings, uses, and effects of chronologies, models of temporality, and notions of originality and repetition in Renaissance images and artifacts.

Anachronic Renaissance reveals a web of paths traveled by works and artists—a land-scape obscured by art history's disciplinary compulsion to anchor its data securely in time. The buildings, paintings, drawings, prints, sculptures, and medals discussed were shaped by concerns about authenticity, about reference to prestigious origins and precedents, and about the implications of transposition from one medium to another. Byzantine icons taken to be Early Christian antiquities, the acheiropoieton, the activities of spoliation and citation, differing approaches to art restoration, legends about movable buildings, and forgeries and pastiches: all of these emerge as basic conceptual structures of Renaissance art. Although a work of art does bear witness to the moment of its fabrication, Nagel and Wood argue that it is equally important to understand its temporal instability: how it points away from that moment, backward to a remote ancestral origin, to a prior artifact or image, even to an origin outside of time, in divinity.

"Anachronic Renaissance seeks to reconceptualize nothing less than the idea of Renaissance art, north and south of the Alps. It is a fascinating, learned, and honest invitation to discussion, a must not only for Renaissance scholars." — CAA Reviews

Alexander Nagel is Professor of Renaissance Art History at the Institute of Fine Arts and the author of *Michelangelo and the Reform of Art*. Christopher S. Wood is Professor in the Department of German at New York University and the author of *Forgery Replica Fiction: Temporalities of German Renaissance Art*.



#### Ben Kafka

# The Demon of Writing

Powers and Failures of Paperwork

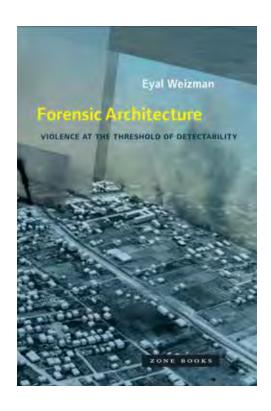
History | Media Studies | Cultural Theory 184 pp. | 9 illus. | 6 x 9 978-1-942130-35-2 paper \$19.95 978-1-935408-26-0 cloth \$29.95 978-1-942130-41-3 ebook

Since the middle of the eighteenth century, political thinkers of all kinds—radical and reactionary, professional and amateur—have been complaining about "bureaucracy." But what, exactly, are they complaining about?

In *The Demon of Writing*, Ben Kafka offers a critical history and theory of one of the most ubiquitous, least understood forms of media: paperwork. States rely on records to tax and spend, protect and serve, discipline and punish. But time and again, this paperwork proves to be unreliable. Examining episodes that range from the story of a clerk who lost his job and then his mind in the French Revolution to an account of Roland Barthes's brief stint as a university administrator, Kafka reveals the powers, the failures, and even the pleasures of paperwork. Many of its complexities, he argues, have been obscured by the comic-paranoid style that characterizes much of our criticism of bureaucracy. Kafka proposes a new theory of what Karl Marx called the "bureaucratic medium." Moving from Marx to Freud, he argues that this theory of paperwork must include both a theory of praxis and of parapraxis.

"Kafka's book is a keen, vivacious examination of the frustrating 'unpredictability' of paperwork as a cultural institution." —Publishers Weekly

Ben Kafka is an Assistant Professor of Media History and Theory at New York University and a candidate at the Institute for Psychoanalytic Training and Research.



#### **Eyal Weizman**

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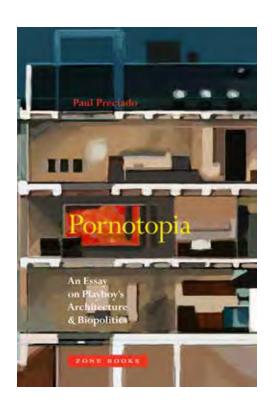
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In *Forensic Architecture*, Eyal Weizman provides, for the first time, an in-depth introduction to the history, practice, assumptions, potentials, and double binds of his research group's investigations into human rights abuses. The book includes an extensive array of images, maps, and detailed documentation that records the intricate work the group has performed. Traversing multiple scales and durations, ranging from the analysis of the shrapnel fragments in a room struck by drones in Pakistan, the reconstruction of a contested shooting in the West Bank, the architectural recreation of a secret Syrian detention center from the memory of its survivors, a blow-by-blow account of a day-long battle in Gaza, and an investigation of environmental violence and climate change in the Guatemalan highlands and elsewhere. Stunning and shocking in its critical narrative, powerful images, and daring investigations, this book presents a new form of public truth, technologically, architecturally, and aesthetically produced. *Forensic Architecture* calls for a transformative politics in which architecture as a field of knowledge and a mode of interpretation exposes and confronts ever-new forms of state violence and secrecy.

"The investigative work of Eyal Weizman and his colleagues at Forensic Architecture is truly remarkable, breaking novel theoretical ground while actively supporting struggles for justice. Again and again, landscapes of power, violence, resistance, and ecological stress are transformed in stunning new ways. Among the many revelations in these pages is a new mapping of the connections between climate change, drought, drones, and armed conflict. These are powerful analytic tools that will be indispensable to the construction of a new human rights framework." — Naomi Klein, author of *The Shock Doctrine* 

Eyal Weizman is Professor of Spatial and Visual Cultures at Goldsmiths College, University of London and a Global Scholar at Princeton University.



#### Paul Preciado

## Pornotopia

An Essay on Playboy's Architecture & Biopolitics

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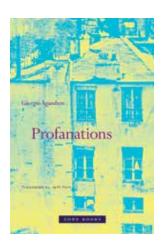
Published for the first time in 1953, *Playboy* became not only the first pornographic popular magazine in America, but also came to embody an entirely new lifestyle that took place in a series of utopian multimedia spaces, from the fictional Playboy's Penthouse of 1956 to the Playboy Mansion of 1959 and the Playboy Clubs of the 1960s. At the same time, the invention of the contraceptive pill offered access to a biochemical technique able to separate (hetero)sexuality and reproduction, troubling the traditional relationships between gender, sexuality, power, and space.

In *Pornotopia*, Paul Preciado examines popular culture and pornographic spaces as sites of architectural production. Combining historical perspectives with insights from critical theory, gender studies, queer theory, porn studies, and the history of technology, and drawing from a range of primary transdisciplinary sources, treatises on sexuality, medical and pharmaceutical handbooks, architecture journals, erotic magazines, building manuals, and novels — Preciado traces the strategic relationships among architecture, gender, and sexuality through popular sites related to the production and consumption of pornography: design objects, bachelor pads, and multimedia rotating beds. These sites are understood here not as inherently or naturally sexual, nor as perverted or queer, but rather as biopolitical techniques for governing sexual reproduction and the production of gender in modernity.

"Preciado rewrites the history of sexuality in terms of a radical reorientation of interiority and exteriority...Breathtaking!" — Jack Halberstam, author of *The Queer Art of Failure* and *Gaga Feminism* 

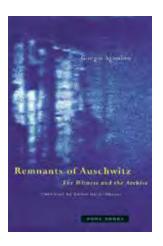
Paul Preciado is a writer, philosopher, and curator. He is the author most recently of An Apartment on Uranus: Chronicles of the Crossing.

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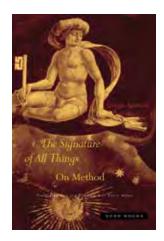
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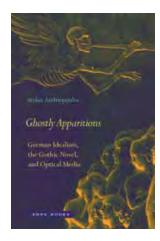
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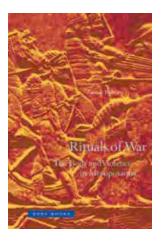
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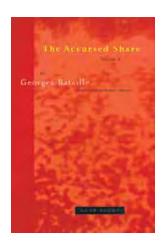
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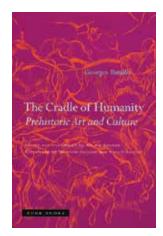
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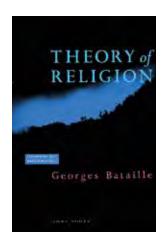
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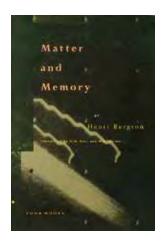
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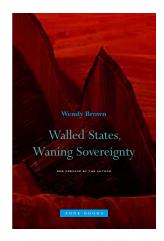
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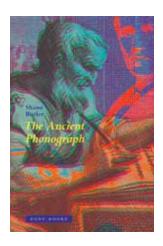
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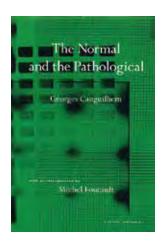
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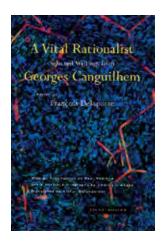
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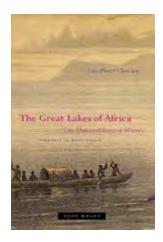
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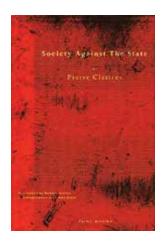
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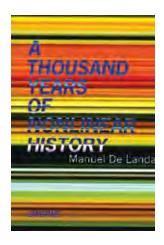
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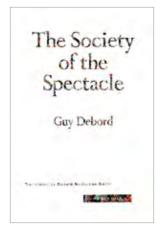
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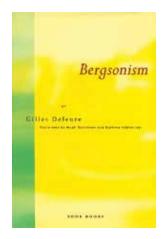
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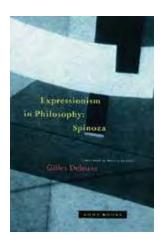
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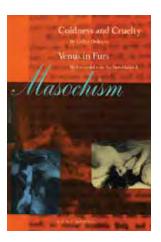
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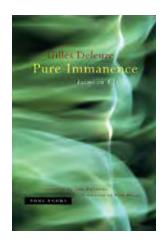
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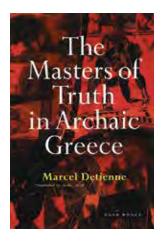
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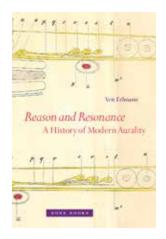
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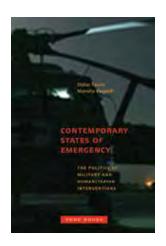
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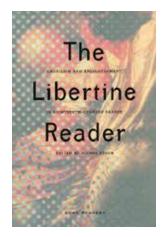
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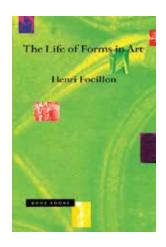
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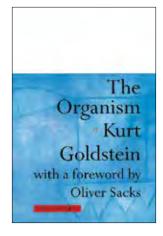
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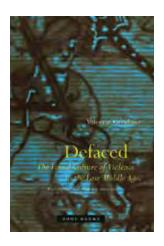
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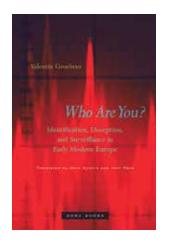
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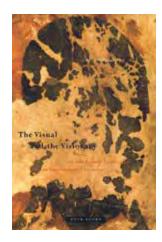
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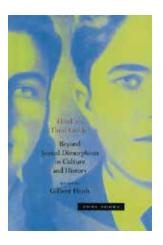
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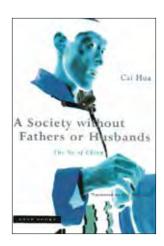
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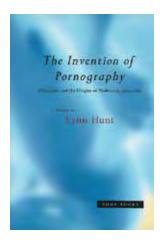
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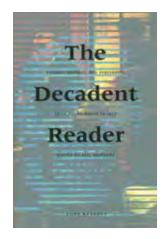
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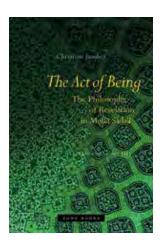
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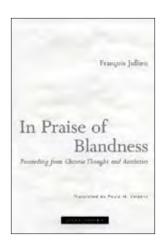
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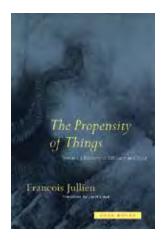
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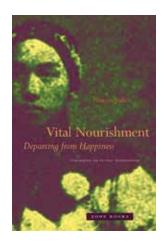
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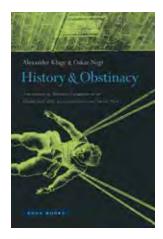
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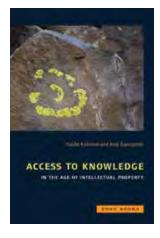
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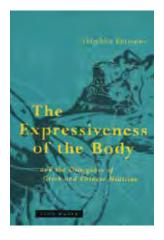
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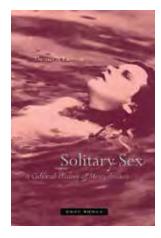
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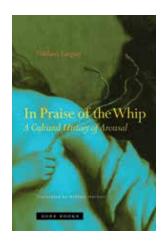
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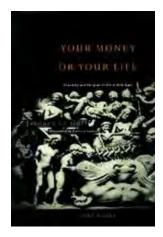
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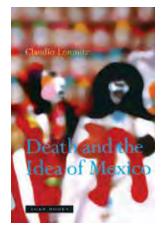
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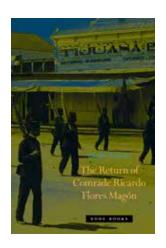
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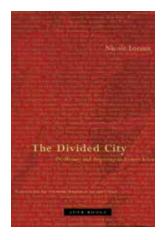
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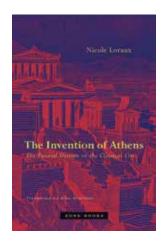
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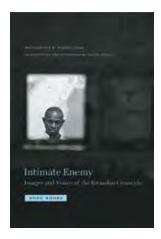
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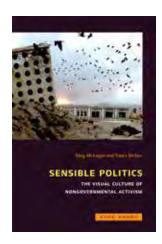
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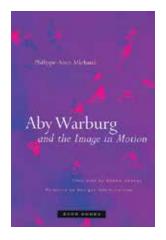
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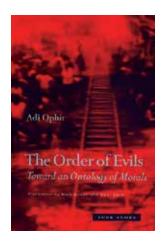
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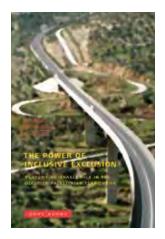
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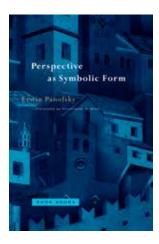
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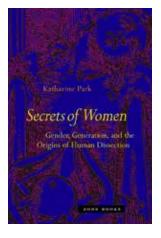
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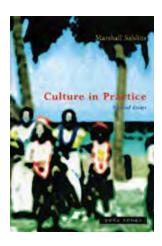
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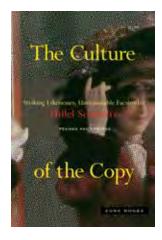
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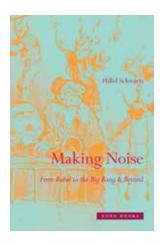
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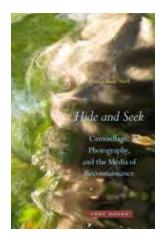
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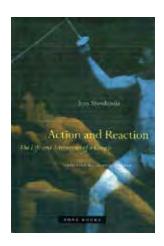
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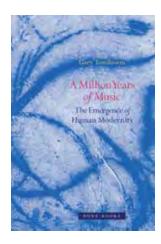
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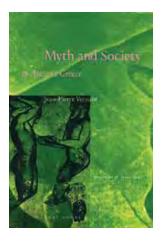
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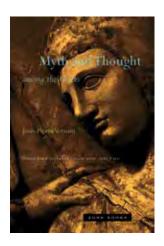
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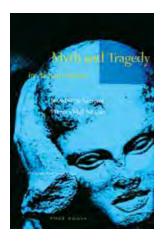
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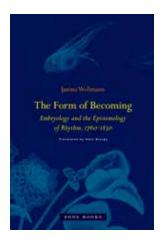
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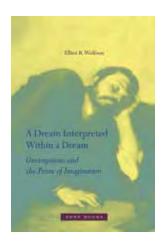
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#### INDICES

Absentees: On Variously Missing Persons 7 Forensic Architecture: Violence at the Threshold Aby Warburg and the Image in Motion 32 of Detectability 19 Access to Knowledge in the Age of Intellectual Property 29 Forest of Symbols, A: Art, Science, and Truth Accursed Share, The, Volume I 22 in the Long Nineteenth Century 13 Accursed Share, The, Volumes II & III 22 Form of Becoming, The: Embryology and the Epistemology Act of Being, The: The Philosophy of Revelation of Rhythm, 1760-1830 35 Foucault | Blanchot 26 in Mullā Sadrā 28 Action and Reaction: The Life and Adventures Fragmentation and Redemption: Essays on Gender of a Couple 34 and the Human Body in Medieval Religion 2 Anachronic Renaissance 17 Ghostly Apparitions: German Idealism, the Gothic Novel. Ancient Phonograph, The 23 and Optical Media 21 Bergsonism 24 Great Lakes of Africa, The: Two Thousand Years of History 23 Beyond the Dream Syndicate: Tony Conrad Hide and Seek: Camouflage, Photography, and the Media and the Arts after Cage 28 of Reconnaissance 33 Bizarre-Privileged Items in the Universe: Historical Grammar of the Visual Arts 8 The Logic of Likeness 9 History & Obstinacy 29 Bob Dylan: How the Songs Work 5 In Praise of Blandness: Proceeding from Chinese Thought Chinese Pleasure Book, The 14 and Aesthetics 29 Christian Materiality: An Essay on Religion In Praise of the Whip: A Cultural History of Arousal 30 in Late Medieval Europe 2 Inner Touch, The: Archeology of a Sensation 6 Intimate Enemy: Images and Voices of the Chronicle of the Guayaki Indians 23 Civil Contract of Photography, The 21 Rwandan Genocide 31 Claude Glass, The: Use and Meaning of the Black Mirror Into the White: The Renaissance Arctic and the End in Western Art 31 of the Image 12 Close Up at a Distance: Mapping, Technology, Invention of Athens, The: The Funeral Oration and Politics 30 in the Classical City 31 Contemporary States of Emergency: The Politics of Military Invention of Pornography, The: Obscenity and the Origins and Humanitarian Interventions 26 of Modernity 1500-1800 28 Cradle of Humanity, The: Prehistoric Art and Culture 22 Jacques Offenbach and the Paris of His Time 29 Crossing Boundaries: Selected Writings 27 La Jetée: Ciné-roman 31 Culture in Practice: Selected Essays 33 Leonardo's Incessant Last Supper 34 Culture of the Copy, The: Striking Likenesses, Libertine Reader, The: Eroticism and Enlightenment Unreasonable Facsimiles 33 in Eighteenth-Century France 26 Dark Tongues: The Art of Rogues and Riddlers 6 Life of Forms in Art, The 26 Death and the Idea of Mexico 30 Making Noise: From Babel to the Big Bang and Beyond 33 Decadent Reader, The: Fiction, Fantasy, and Perversion Masochism 25 from Fin-de-Siècle France 28 Masters of Truth in Archaic Greece, The 25 Defaced: The Visual Culture of Violence Matter and Memory 22 in the Late Middle Ages 27 Metamorphosis and Identity 2 Demon of Writing, The: Powers and Failures of Paperwork 18 Million Years of Music, A: The Emergence Depositions: Scenes from the Late Medieval Church of Human Modernity 34 and the Modern Museum 33 Movement of the Free Spirit, The 34 Detour and Access: Strategies of Meaning Myth and Society in Ancient Greece 34 in China and Greece 28 Myth and Thought among the Greeks 35 Dissimilar Similitudes: Devotional Objects Myth and Tragedy in Ancient Greece 35 in Late Medieval Europe 3 Nongovernmental Politics 26 Divided City, The: On Memory and Forgetting No One's Ways: An Essay on Infinite Naming 6 in Ancient Athens 31 Normal and the Pathological, The 23 Dream Interpreted Within a Dream, A: Objectivity 24 Oneiropoiesis and the Prism of Imagination 35 Operatic Afterlives 27 Echolalias: On the Forgetting of Language 6 Order of Evils, The: Toward an Ontology of Morals 32 Enemy of All, The: Piracy and the Law of Nations 6 Organism, The 26 Expressionism in Philosophy: Spinoza 25 Outlaw Territories: Environments of Insecurity/ Expressiveness of the Body and the Divergence Architectures of Counterinsurgency 33 of Greek and Chinese Medicine. The 30 Perfection's Therapy: An Essay on Albrecht Dürer's Family Values: Between Neoliberalism and Melencolia I 16 the New Social Conservatism 10 Perspective as Symbolic Form 32 Pornotopia: An Essay on Playboy's Architecture Fifth Hammer, The: Pythagoras and the Disharmony of the World 6 and Biopolitics 20

Portfolio Society: On the Capitalist Mode of Prediction 10 Power of Inclusive Exclusion. The: Anatomy of Israeli Rule in the Occupied Palestinian Territories 32 Profanations 21 Propensity of Things, The: Toward a History of Efficacy in China 29 Publics and Counterpublics 35 Pure Immanence: Essays on a Life 25 Rated Agency: Investee Politics in a Speculative Age 11 Reason and Resonance: A History of Modern Aurality 25 Remnants of Auschwitz: The Witness and the Archive 21 Return of Comrade Ricardo Flores Magón, The 31 Rituals of War: The Body and Violence in Mesopotamia 21 Secrets of Women: Gender, Generation, and the Origins of Human Dissection 32 Sensible Politics: The Visual Culture of Nongovernmental Activism 32 Signature of All Things, The: On Method 21 1668: The Year of the Animal in France 15 Society Against the State: Essays in Political Anthropology 23 Society of the Spectacle, The 24 Society without Fathers or Husbands, A: The Na of China 28 Solitary Sex: A Cultural History of Masturbation 30 Ten Thousand Things: Nurturing Life in Contemporary Beijing 25 Theory of Religion 22 Things That Talk: Object Lessons from Art and Science 24 Third Sex, Third Gender: Beyond Sexual Dimorphism in Culture and History 27 Thousand Years of Nonlinear History, A 24 Undoing the Demos: Neoliberalism's Stealth Revolution 10 Vienna School Reader, The: Politics and Art Historical Method in the 1930s 35 Visual and the Visionary, The: Art and Female Spirituality in Late Medieval Germany 27 Vital Nourishment: Departing from Happiness 29 Vital Rationalist, A: Selected Writings from Georges Canguilhem 23 Walled States, Waning Sovereignty 22 Who Are You?: Identification, Deception, and Surveillance in Early Modern Europe 27 Wicked Queen, The: The Origins of the Myth of Marie-Antoinette 34 Wonders and the Order of Nature 1150-1750 24 Your Money or Your Life: Economy and Religion in the Middle Ages 30

Agamben, Giorgio 21 Andriopoulos, Stefan 21 Ascher, Ivan 10 Azoulay, Ariella 21 Bahrani, Zainab 21 Bataille, Georges 23 Bergson, Henri 23 Blanchot, Maurice 26 Brown, Wendy 10, 22 Butler, Shane 23 Bynum, Caroline Walker 2, 3 Canguilhem, Georges 23 Chrétien, Jean-Pierre 23 Clastres, Pierre 23 Cooper, Melinda 10 Daston, Lorraine 24 De Landa, Manuel 24 Debord, Guy 24 Deleuze, Gilles 24, 25 Detienne Marcel 25 Erlmann, Veit 25 Farquhar, Judith 25 Fassin, Didier 26 Feher, Michel 11, 26 Focillon, Henri 26 Foucault, Michel 26 Galison, Peter 24 Givoni, Michal 32 Goldstein Kurt 26 Groebner, Valentin 27 Grover-Friedlander, Michal 27 Hamburger, Jeffrey F. 27 Hampton, Timothy 5 Hanafi, Sari 32 Heller-Roazen, Daniel 6, 7 Herdt, Gilbert 27 Heuer, Christopher H. 12 Hirschman, Albert O. 27 Hua, Cai 28 Hunt, Lynn 28 Hustvedt, Asti 28 Jambet, Christian 28 Joseph, Branden W. 28 Jullien, François 28, 29 Kafka, Ben 18 Kapczynski, Amy 29 Kluge, Alexander 29 Kracauer, Siegfried 29 Krikorian, Gaëlle 29 Kurgan, Laura 30 Kuriyama, Shigehisa 30 Laqueur, Thomas W. 30 Largier, Niklaus 30 Le Goff, Jacques 30 Lomnitz, Claudio 30, 31 Loraux, Nicole 31 Lyons, Robert 31 Maillet, Arnaud 31 Marker, Chris 31

McKee, Yates 32 McLagan, Meg 32 Merback, Mitchell B. 16 Michaud, Philippe-Alain 32 Nagel, Alexander 17 Negt, Oskar 29 North, Paul 9 Nylan, Michael 14 Ophir, Adi 32 Pandolfi, Mariella 26 Panofsky, Erwin 32 Park, Katharine 24, 32 Pop. Andrei 13 Powell, Amy Knight 33 Preciado, Paul 20 Riegl, Aloïs 8 Sacher-Masoch, Leopold von 25 Sahlins Marshall 33 Sahlins, Peter 15 Schwartz, Hillel 33 Scott, Felicity D. 33 Shell, Hanna Rose 33 Starobinski, Jean 34 Steinberg, Leo 34 Straus, Scott 31 Thomas, Chantal 34 Tomlinson, Gary 34 Vaneigem, Raoul 34 Vernant, Jean-Pierre 34, 35 Vidal-Naquet, Pierre 35 Warner, Michael 35 Weizman, Eyal 19 Wellmann, Janina 35 Wolfson, Elliot R. 35 Wood, Christopher S. 17, 35 Zhang, Qicheng 25

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### **Editorial inquiries**

Meighan Gale mgale@zonebooks.org

### Subsidiary and international rights

Kyra Simone

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