

sexual personae by camille paglia

Sexual Personae by Camille Paglia: An Exploration of Art, Sexuality, and Culture

sexual personae by camille paglia is a provocative and groundbreaking work that has captivated readers and scholars since its publication in 1990. This book, a blend of cultural criticism, art history, and psychoanalytic theory, dives deep into the complex intersections between sexuality, art, and the human psyche. Camille Paglia's distinctive voice and unapologetic perspective make *Sexual Personae* a fascinating read that challenges conventional views on gender, sexuality, and cultural expression.

Understanding Sexual Personae by Camille Paglia

Sexual Personae is not a typical academic text. Instead, it's a sweeping narrative that traces the representation of sexual archetypes—what Paglia calls “personae”—throughout Western art and literature. Her thesis centers on the idea that sexual identity and gender roles are not merely social constructs but are deeply rooted in biology and history, reflected vividly in the arts.

Paglia argues that the tension between Apollonian order (reason, culture, civilization) and Dionysian chaos (nature, instinct, sexuality) has shaped the development of Western culture. This dynamic plays out repeatedly in the way artists and writers depict masculinity and femininity, heroism and monstrosity, creation and destruction.

The Role of Archetypes in Sexual Personae

At the heart of *Sexual Personae* by Camille Paglia is the concept of archetypes—recurring figures and themes that embody primal human drives. Paglia identifies these archetypes by studying figures such as the femme fatale, the male hero, the androgynous artist, and the monstrous woman. Each persona represents a facet of the human condition related to sexuality and power.

For example, the femme fatale emerges as a symbol of dangerous, untamed female sexuality that disrupts societal order but also fascinates and inspires. Meanwhile, the male hero often embodies the struggle to impose order on chaos, reflecting the tension between civilization and primal nature.

Camille Paglia's Approach to Art and Sexuality

One of the reasons *Sexual Personae* by Camille Paglia stands out is its fearless approach to discussing sexuality within the context of art history. Unlike many feminist critiques that focus primarily on social constructs or political ideologies, Paglia embraces the raw, often unsettling forces of nature and sexuality.

Art as a Reflection of Sexual Energy

Paglia sees art as a battleground where sexual energies and cultural narratives clash and coalesce. She analyzes works from a diverse range of artists and periods—from Botticelli's Renaissance paintings to the poetry of Lord Byron—highlighting how sexual personae are expressed visually and textually.

Her analysis reveals how artistic representations of sexuality often embody the struggle between freedom and control, attraction and repulsion. This lens encourages readers to appreciate the complexity behind seemingly simple images or stories, understanding them as manifestations of deep psychological and biological drives.

The Intersection of Gender and Power

Sexual Personae by Camille Paglia also explores how gender roles are intertwined with power dynamics throughout history. Paglia challenges the idea that gender is purely a social construct by emphasizing the enduring influence of biology and myth on human behavior.

She provocatively argues that femininity is often linked to nature's wildness and unpredictability, while masculinity is associated with order and domination. These associations have shaped how societies view gender and sexuality, often leading to conflict and repression but also to creativity and transformation.

Why *Sexual Personae* by Camille Paglia Remains Relevant

Decades after its release, *Sexual Personae* by Camille Paglia remains a significant and controversial work. Its blend of erudition, wit, and bold assertions continues to spark debate in academic and cultural circles.

Challenging Conventional Feminism

One reason for its enduring impact is Paglia's challenge to mainstream feminist thought. While many feminists focus on oppression and social justice, Paglia emphasizes the power of acknowledging sexual difference and the darker, more primal aspects of human nature.

Her unapologetic embrace of controversial topics—such as the allure of dangerous women or the biological roots of sexual behavior—makes *Sexual Personae* a unique contribution to discussions about gender and culture.

Influence on Contemporary Cultural Criticism

Sexual Personae by Camille Paglia has influenced numerous writers, artists, and thinkers interested in exploring sexuality and culture from unconventional perspectives. It invites readers to reconsider simplistic binaries and to engage with the complexities of desire, identity, and artistic expression.

For students of art history, literature, and gender studies, Paglia's work offers a rich, if challenging, resource for understanding how sexuality shapes cultural production across time.

Tips for Engaging with *Sexual Personae* by Camille Paglia

If you're planning to read *Sexual Personae* by Camille Paglia, here are some helpful tips to deepen your understanding and appreciation:

- **Approach with an open mind:** Paglia's views can be provocative and sometimes controversial. Embrace the challenge and consider her arguments thoughtfully rather than dismissing them outright.
- **Take notes on key archetypes:** Identifying the sexual personae she discusses will help you follow her complex analysis across different artworks and historical periods.
- **Explore referenced artworks and literature:** Familiarity with the primary sources Paglia discusses enriches the reading experience and provides context for her interpretations.
- **Engage with critiques:** Reading reviews and critiques of *Sexual Personae* can offer additional perspectives and highlight the ongoing debates around Paglia's ideas.

Sexual Personae and the Broader Conversation on Sexuality and Culture

Sexual Personae by Camille Paglia fits into a larger dialogue about how sexuality is represented and understood in society. It bridges gaps between disciplines—psychology, art history, gender studies—and challenges readers to see sexuality not just as a personal or social issue but as a cultural and artistic force.

By emphasizing the interplay between biology and culture, Paglia's work pushes the boundaries of traditional criticism and invites a more nuanced appreciation of the complexities inherent in human sexuality and artistic expression.

Whether you agree with all of her conclusions or not, Sexual Personae offers a compelling lens through which to view the ongoing dance between desire, identity, and creativity in Western civilization.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the central thesis of 'Sexual Personae' by Camille Paglia?

'Sexual Personae' explores the interplay of sexuality, art, and culture throughout Western history, arguing that human civilization is deeply influenced by the dualistic forces of nature and culture, male and female energies, and the tension between chaos and order.

How does Camille Paglia define the concept of 'sexual personae' in her book?

Paglia defines 'sexual personae' as the archetypal sexual identities and roles that appear repeatedly in Western art and literature, representing the complex dynamics of gender, power, and sexuality.

What role does art play in 'Sexual Personae'?

In 'Sexual Personae,' art is portrayed as a battleground where primal sexual and cultural forces are expressed and explored, serving as a mirror to humanity's ongoing struggle between nature and civilization.

How does Camille Paglia approach the theme of feminism in 'Sexual Personae'?

Paglia offers a controversial critique of contemporary feminism, emphasizing the importance of acknowledging biological and sexual differences rather than denying or minimizing them.

Which historical periods and figures are analyzed in 'Sexual Personae'?

The book covers a wide range of periods from ancient Greece and Rome to the Renaissance and Victorian era, analyzing figures such as Sappho, Michelangelo, and Oscar Wilde to illustrate her themes.

What is Camille Paglia's perspective on the relationship between sexuality and civilization?

Paglia argues that sexuality is a fundamental and often disruptive force that civilization tries to contain and channel through art, religion, and social norms, but it cannot be fully suppressed.

How has 'Sexual Personae' influenced cultural and literary criticism?

'Sexual Personae' has been influential for its bold interdisciplinary approach, blending literature, art history, psychology, and anthropology, encouraging debates on gender, sexuality, and cultural expression.

What criticisms have been directed at 'Sexual Personae'?

Critics have challenged Paglia's deterministic views on gender and sexuality, her sometimes provocative language, and her rejection of certain feminist orthodoxies, arguing that her thesis can be overly reductive.

Why is 'Sexual Personae' considered a controversial book?

It challenges established feminist views, embraces biological determinism, and presents provocative interpretations of sexuality and culture, which has sparked both acclaim and backlash in academic and public circles.

Additional Resources

Sexual Personae by Camille Paglia: An In-Depth Exploration of Art, Sexuality, and Culture

sexual personae by camille paglia stands as a provocative and intellectually ambitious work that challenges conventional narratives in art history, sexuality, and cultural criticism. Published in 1990, this seminal book has sparked debates for its unorthodox perspectives and unapologetic embrace of the complexities inherent in human sexuality and artistic expression. Camille Paglia, an outspoken cultural critic and academic, uses *Sexual Personae* to dissect Western civilization's relationship with eroticism, blending literary analysis, art history, and psychoanalytic theory to present a sweeping reinterpretation of sexuality's role in shaping culture.

The book's title itself—*Sexual Personae*—reflects Paglia's central thesis: that human sexuality manifests through recurring archetypal figures or "personae" that have influenced Western art and literature across centuries. Unlike many feminist or postmodern critiques that emphasize social constructs and power dynamics, Paglia's analysis is rooted in biological determinism and an acceptance of the primal, often contradictory forces driving human behavior. This foundational approach makes *Sexual Personae* by Camille Paglia both a controversial and influential text in the landscape of cultural studies.

Analyzing the Core Themes of Sexual Personae

Sexual Personae by Camille Paglia is notably interdisciplinary, melding insights from various fields to build a comprehensive narrative about sexuality's enduring presence in art and culture. Central to the book is the idea that sexual identity and power are not solely social constructs but are deeply rooted in natural, often chaotic impulses that manifest through symbolic figures in literature and visual arts.

The Archetypes of Sexuality

Paglia identifies a range of archetypal personae that recur throughout Western history. These archetypes include the femme fatale, the androgyne, and the monstrous male figure, among others. Each persona embodies a complex mix of attraction and danger, creativity and destruction, reflecting humanity's ambivalence toward sexuality. Rather than viewing these figures as simplistic stereotypes, Paglia interprets them as symbolic representations of elemental forces that shape human existence.

One of the most discussed archetypes in *Sexual Personae* is the femme fatale, a seductive woman who wields sexual power to dominate or destroy. Paglia traces this figure from ancient mythologies through Renaissance art to modern cinema, arguing that the femme fatale embodies a natural tension between civilization and the primal instincts it seeks to suppress. This treatment challenges sanitized or purely moralistic views of female sexuality, positioning it instead as a potent and ambivalent force.

Intersection of Art and Sexuality

A significant portion of *Sexual Personae* by Camille Paglia is dedicated to exploring how sexuality is encoded in artistic masterpieces. Paglia approaches art history with a keen eye for erotic symbolism, arguing that great works of art often reflect an unconscious dialogue between the artist's engagement with sexual power and societal taboos. From the sculptures of Michelangelo to the paintings of Caravaggio, Paglia reads sexual energy as a driving force behind artistic innovation and cultural transformation.

By emphasizing the continuity of erotic motifs across epochs, Paglia challenges the notion of progressive moral enlightenment. Instead, *Sexual Personae* suggests that art preserves a raw and sometimes unsettling truth about human nature that cannot be fully domesticated by social norms. This perspective has led to both praise and criticism, with some applauding Paglia's erudition and others questioning her biological determinism and perceived essentialism.

Contextualizing *Sexual Personae* in Contemporary Discourse

Since its publication, *Sexual Personae* by Camille Paglia has remained a touchstone for debates surrounding feminism, sexuality, and cultural criticism. The book's synthesis of psychoanalysis, art history, and literary theory offers a counterpoint to dominant academic trends that emphasize social constructionism or identity politics.

Reception and Criticism

Sexual Personae has been hailed as groundbreaking by some scholars for its boldness and intellectual breadth. Paglia's refusal to conform to prevailing feminist orthodoxies has earned her both admiration and notoriety. Critics argue that her emphasis on biological and archetypal determinants risks reinforcing gender essentialism and neglecting the socioeconomic dimensions of sexual identity.

Moreover, Paglia's writing style—dense, allusive, and often polemical—can be challenging for readers. However, this complexity also contributes to the book's lasting appeal, inviting multiple readings and interpretations. In academic circles, *Sexual Personae* is frequently cited for its unique contribution to understanding the intersections of sexuality, art, and culture, even among those who dispute some of its conclusions.

Comparisons with Other Cultural Critiques

When compared to other influential works in cultural and feminist theory, *Sexual Personae* by Camille Paglia stands apart for its unapologetic embrace of sexuality's darker and more chaotic aspects. Unlike Judith Butler's focus on gender performativity or Michel Foucault's analysis of power and sexuality, Paglia foregrounds the biological and mythological dimensions of eroticism.

This distinction makes *Sexual Personae* a valuable complement rather than a direct challenge to other feminist and cultural theories. Its archetypal lens offers insights into why certain sexual motifs persist and resonate, providing a deeper understanding of cultural continuity and transformation.

Key Features of *Sexual Personae* by Camille Paglia

To better understand the book's impact, it is useful to highlight several features that distinguish *Sexual Personae* within cultural criticism:

- **Interdisciplinary Approach:** The text integrates art history, literature, psychoanalysis, and cultural theory, creating a multifaceted analysis of sexuality.
- **Historical Scope:** Paglia traces sexual archetypes from ancient civilizations through the Renaissance to modernity, emphasizing historical continuity.
- **Focus on Archetypes:** The identification of recurring sexual personae offers a symbolic framework for interpreting cultural artifacts.
- **Biological Determinism:** The argument that sexual identity and behavior have roots in biology and nature rather than purely social constructs.
- **Provocative Tone:** Paglia's unapologetic and often confrontational style challenges prevailing academic and cultural norms.

Pros and Cons

- **Pros:** Offers a fresh and comprehensive perspective on sexuality and art; challenges orthodox thinking; rich in historical and cultural references; sparks intellectual debate.

- **Cons:** May be perceived as controversial or essentialist; complex prose can be dense; some arguments are subject to critique for biological determinism; polarizing reception among feminists.

Sexual Personae by Camille Paglia continues to provoke thought and discussion more than three decades after its release. Its lasting relevance lies in its willingness to confront the often uncomfortable realities of human sexuality and cultural expression. Through her exploration of archetypes and the artistic imagination, Paglia invites readers to reconsider the forces that shape both individual identity and collective culture, revealing sexuality not as a mere social construct but as a profound and enduring influence on civilization's trajectory.

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sexual personae by camille paglia: Sexual Personae Camille Paglia, 1990-09-10 From ancient Egypt through the nineteenth century, *Sexual Personae* explores the provocative connections between art and pagan ritual; between Emily Dickinson and the Marquis de Sade; between Lord Byron and Elvis Presley. It ultimately challenges the cultural assumptions of both conservatives and traditional liberals. 47 photographs.

sexual personae by camille paglia: Vamps & Tramps Camille Paglia, 1994-10-11 The bestselling author of *Sexual Personae* and *Sex, Art, and American Culture* is back with a fiery new collection of essays on everything from art and celebrity to gay activism, Lorena Bobbitt to Bill and Hillary. These essays have never appeared in book form, and many will be appearing in print for the first time.

sexual personae by camille paglia: Free Women, Free Men Camille Paglia, 2018-02-06 Ever since the release of her seminal first book, *Sexual Personae*, Camille Paglia has remained one of feminism's most outspoken, independent, and searingly intelligent voices. Now, for the first time, her best essays on the subject are gathered together in one concise volume. Whether she's calling for equal opportunity for American women (years before the founding of the National Organization for Women), championing a more discerning standard of beauty that goes beyond plastic surgery's quest for eternal youth, lauding the liberating force of rock and roll, or demanding free and unfettered speech on university campuses and beyond, Paglia can always be counted on to get to the heart of matters large and small. At once illuminating, witty, and inspiring, these essays are essential reading that affirm the power of men and women and what we can accomplish together.

sexual personae by camille paglia: Sex, Art, and American Culture Camille Paglia, 1992-09-08 A collection of twenty of Paglia's out-spoken essays on contemporary issues in America's ongoing cultural debate such as Anita Hill, Robert Mapplethorpe, the beauty myth, and the decline of education in America.

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sexual personae by camille paglia: Provocations Camille Paglia, 2019-09-17 Much has changed since Camille Paglia first burst onto the scene with her groundbreaking *Sexual Personae*, but the laser-sharp insights of this major American thinker continue to be ahead of the curve—not only capturing the tone of the moment but also often anticipating it. Opening with a blazing manifesto of an introduction in which Paglia outlines the bedrock beliefs that inform her writing—freedom of speech, the necessity of fearless inquiry, and a deep respect for all art, both

erudite and popular—Provocations gathers together a rich, varied body of work spanning twenty-five years, illuminating everything from the Odyssey to the Oscars, from punk rock to presidents past and present. Whatever your political inclination or literary and artistic touchstones, Paglia's takes are compulsively readable, thought provoking, galvanizing, and an essential part of our cultural dialogue, invariably giving voice to what most needs to be said.

sexual personae by camille paglia: *Readings on Human Nature* Peter Loftson, 1998-02-04 This anthology brings together 45 selections by a wide range of philosophers and other thinkers, and provides a representative sampling of the approaches to the study of human nature that have been taken within the western tradition. The selections range in time from the ancient Greeks to the 1990s, and in political orientation from the conservative individualism of Ayn Rand to the liberalism of John Rawls. Classic writings from the sixteenth through nineteenth centuries are here (Descartes, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Rousseau, and so on), but so are a wide range of twentieth-century writings, including a number of feminist voices, the biological theory of Edward O. Wilson, and the cultural materialist theory of Marvin Harris. A substantial selection of Christian views of human nature is a central part of the anthology. The anthology is as notable for its depth as it is for its breadth; an important editorial principle has been to include a variety of substantial selections, thus allowing the reader to engage more readily with some of the complexities of each approach.

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sexual personae by camille paglia: *Sexual Correctness* Wendy McElroy, 2001-06-15 As feminist and women-positive ideas and ideals exploded in the 1960s and 1970s, a sexual revolution was forged, allowing women a variety of lifestyle choices. Many current feminists, called gender feminists by some, too often are fighting to limit the sexual options of women. They view women as victims of patriarchy whom must be protected from making incorrect sexual choices, such as choosing to work in pornography or prostitution. As a movement, author McElroy believes, feminism is in danger of drifting from sexual liberation to sexual correctness. This work gives a critical overview of the ideological shift among many feminists. The issues of sexual correctness are examined in detail, showing how the changing ideology is destroying the principle of a woman's body, a woman's right and endangering women's right to choose. On each issue, this work presents alternatives in the individualist traditions that defined the feminism movement for many years.

sexual personae by camille paglia: *Feminism in Practice* Karen A. Foss, Sonja K. Foss, Alena Amato Ruggerio, 2021-09-23 *Feminism in Practice* uses feminism as a blueprint for exploring change strategies. It features twenty contemporary feminists from diverse arenas, including activists, comedians, musicians, politicians, poets, and showrunners. The women come to life through line drawings, brief biographies, extensive quotations, their definitions of feminism, and the change strategies they employ. Questions for reflection encourage readers to think through their own relationship to feminism and change. Chapter 1 defines feminism, raising issues with the typical definition of feminism as the effort to achieve equality between women and men. It concludes with a description of over twenty types of feminism. Chapter 2 describes the triggering events, happening places, and key ideas of the four waves of feminism. The opening chapters provide a comprehensive understanding of the diversity and complexity of feminist movement. The book is organized around five primary objectives that animate contemporary change efforts—proclaiming identity, naming a problem, enriching a system, changing a system, and creating an alternative system. Each objective is developed through theoretical assumptions and twelve change strategies that show it at work in feminist movement. *Feminism in Practice* also serves as a practical handbook that readers can use to experiment with the strategies and expand their toolkits for creating change in their lives and worlds. The authors are uniquely qualified to explore issues of feminism and change. Karen Foss and Sonja Foss are second wave feminists who have written extensively on alternative change strategies, feminist communication, and feminist theory. Alena Ruggerio brings to the project the standpoint of a third wave feminist at home in pop culture. Her scholarship lies at the intersection of rhetoric, feminism, and religious studies. To learn more about *Feminism in Practice*, listen to the authors'

October 2021 interview on The Jefferson Exchange.

sexual personae by camille paglia: *Break, Blow, Burn* Camille Paglia, 2007-12-18 America's most provocative intellectual brings her blazing powers of analysis to the most famous poems of the Western tradition—and unearths some previously obscure verses worthy of a place in our canon. Combining close reading with a panoramic breadth of learning, Camille Paglia sharpens our understanding of poems we thought we knew, from Shakespeare to Dickinson to Plath, and makes a case for including in the canon works by Paul Blackburn, Wanda Coleman, Chuck Wachtel, Rochelle Kraut—and even Joni Mitchell. Daring, riveting, and beautifully written, *Break, Blow, Burn* is a modern classic that excites even seasoned poetry lovers—and continues to create generations of new ones.

sexual personae by camille paglia: A New Dawn for the Second Sex Karen Vintges, 2025-10-01 To what extent is Simone de Beauvoir's study *The Second Sex* still relevant? From her work it emerges that patriarchy is a many-headed monster. Over the past decades, various heads of this monster have been slayed: important breakthroughs have been achieved by and for women in law, politics, and economics. Today, however, we witness movements in the opposite direction, such as a masculinist political revival in different parts of the world, the spread of the neoliberal myth of the Super Woman, the rise of transnational networks of trafficking in women and children, and a new international 'Jihadism'. This suggests that patriarchy is indeed a Hydra: a multi-headed monster that grows several new heads every time one head is cut off. Since different - often hybrid - heads of patriarchy dominate in different settings, feminism requires a variety of strategies. Women's movements all over the world today are critically creating new models of self and society in their own contexts. Drawing on notions of Beauvoir, as well as Michel Foucault, this book outlines a 'feminism in a new key' which consists of women's various freedom practices, each hunting the Hydra in their own key - but with mutual support.

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sexual personae by camille paglia: *Updike and Politics* Scott Dill, Matthew Shipe, 2019-06-27 Presenting the first interdisciplinary consideration of his political thought, *Updike and Politics: New Considerations* establishes a new scholarly foundation for assessing one of the most recognized and significant American writers of the post-1945 period. This book brings together a diverse group of American and international scholars, including contributors from Japan, India, Israel, and Europe. Like Updike himself, the collection canvases a wide range of topics, including Updike's too often overlooked poetry and his single play. Its essays deal with not only political themes such as the traditional aspects of power, rights, equality, justice, or violence but also the more divisive elements in Updike's work like race, gender, imperialism, hegemony, and technology. Ultimately, the book reveals how Updike's immense body of work illuminates the central political questions and problems that troubled American culture during the second half of the twentieth century as well as the opening decade of the new millennium.

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such as cyberphilosophy. Along the way, Romano seeks to topple philosophy's most fiercely admired hero, Socrates, asserting that it is Isocrates, the nearly forgotten Greek philosopher who rejected certainty, whom Americans should honor as their intellectual ancestor. *America the Philosophical* introduces readers to a nation whose existence most still doubt: a dynamic, deeply stimulating network of people and places drawn together by shared excitement about ideas. From the annual conference of the American Philosophical Association, where scholars tack wiseguy notes addressed to Spinoza on a public bulletin board, to the eruption of philosophy blogs where participants discuss everything from pedagogy to the philosophy of science to the nature of agency and free will, Romano reveals a world where public debate and intellectual engagement never stop. And readers meet the men and women whose ideas have helped shape American life over the previous few centuries, from well-known historical figures like William James and Ralph Waldo Emerson, to modern cultural critics who deserve to be seen as thinkers (Kenneth Burke, Edward Said), to the iconoclastic African American, women, Native American, and gay mavericks (Cornel West, Susan Sontag, Anne Waters, Richard Mohr) who have broadened the boundaries of American philosophy. Smart and provocative, *America the Philosophical* is a rebellious tour de force that both celebrates our country's unparalleled intellectual energy and promises to bury some of our most hidebound cultural clichés.

sexual personae by camille paglia: *The Dustbin of History* Greil Marcus, 1995 How much history can be communicated by pressure on a guitar string? Robert Palmer wondered in *Deep Blues*. Greil Marcus answers here: more than we will ever know. It is the history in the riff, in the movie or novel or photograph, in the actor's pose or critic's posturing--in short, the history in cultural happenstance--that Marcus reveals here, exposing along the way the distortions and denials that keep us oblivious if not immune to its lessons. Whether writing about the Beat Generation or Umberto Eco, Picasso's *Guernica* or the massacre in Tiananmen Square, *The Manchurian Candidate* or John Wayne's acting, Eric Ambler's antifascist thrillers or Camille Paglia, Marcus uncovers the histories embedded in our cultural moments and acts, and shows how, through our reading of the truths our culture tells and those it twists and conceals, we situate ourselves in that history and in the world. Rarely has a history lesson been so exhilarating. With the startling insights and electric style that have made him our foremost writer on American music, Marcus brings back to life the cultural events that have defined us and our time, the social milieu in which they took place, and the individuals engaged in them. As he does so, we see that these cultural instances--as lofty as *The Book of J*, as humble as a TV movie about Jan and Dean, as fleeting as a few words spoken at the height of the Berkeley Free Speech Movement, as enduring as a Paleolithic painting--often have more to tell us than the master-narratives so often passed off as faultless representations of the past. Again and again Marcus skewers the widespread assumption that history exists only in the past, that it is behind us, relegated to the dustbin. Here we see instead that history is very much with us, being made and unmade every day, and unless we recognize it our future will be as cramped and impoverished as our present sense of the past.

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world. And allegory—a dominant mode of literature from the late Middle Ages until well into the Renaissance—became “the vice of those times,” as Thomas Rymer described it in 1674. This book shows that its acute devaluation was possible only in conjunction with a distinctively modern physics. Analyzing writings by Sidney, Shakespeare, Bacon, Jonson, Brahe, Kepler, Galileo, Hobbes, Descartes, and more, it asserts that the scientific revolution was a literary phenomenon, just as the literary revolution was also a scientific one.

sexual personae by camille paglia: *The Other Worldview* Peter Jones, 2015-06-24 A must-read for every concerned American--and especially for every Christian who weeps at the graveside of his culture. --R.C. Sproul A cataclysmic change has occurred as our culture has shifted toward belief in Oneism. Every religion and philosophy fits into one of two basic worldviews: Oneism asserts that everything is essentially one, while Twoism affirms an irreducible distinction between creation and Creator. The Other Worldview exposes the pagan roots of Oneism, traces its spread throughout Western culture, and demonstrates its inability to save. For bodily holiness and transformed thinking . . . we depend entirely on one amazing thing: the incredibly powerful message of the Gospel to a sinful world, which is the ultimate expression and goal of Twoism. The only hope is in Christ alone.

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