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Embattled
How Ancient Greek Myths Empower Us to Resist Tyranny
Emily Katz Anhalt
An incisive exploration of the way Greek myths empower us to defeat tyranny.
Anhalt retells tales from key ancient Greek texts and proceeds to interpret the important message they hold for us today. As she reveals, Homer’s Iliad and Odyssey, Aeschylus’s Oresteia, and Sophocles’s Antigone encourage us—as they encouraged the ancient Greeks—to take responsibility for our own choices and their consequences. They empower us to resist the tyrannical impulses not only of others but also in ourselves. In an era of political polarization, Embattled demonstrates that if we seek to eradicate tyranny in all its toxic forms, ancient Greek epics and tragedies can point the way.
"Provides essential bearings for our current moment."
—Daniel Martinez HoSang, author of A Wider Type of Freedom

The Strange Career of Racial Liberalism
Joseph Darda
Darda traces the rise of liberal antiracism, showing how reformers’ faith in time, in the moral arc of the universe, has undercut future movements with the insistence that racism constitutes a time-limited crisis to be solved with time-limited remedies. Telling the stories of Ruth Benedict, Kenneth Clark, W. E. B. Du Bois, John Howard Griffin, Pauli Murray, Lillian Smith, Richard Wright, and others, Darda reveals how Americans learned to wait on time for racial change and the enduring harm of that trust in the clock.

Genres of Privacy in Postwar America
Palmer Rampell
Rampell reveals the surprising role genre fiction played in redefining the category of the private person in the postwar period. Triangulating novels and films with archival discoveries and historical and legal research, Rampell provides new readings of Patricia Highsmith, Dorothy B. Hughes, Philip K. Dick, Octavia Butler, Chester Himes, Stephen King, Cormac McCarthy, and others. The book pairs the right of privacy that Americans learned to wait on time for racial change and the enduring harm of that trust in the clock.
"Provides essential bearings for our current moment."
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Crisis Style
The Aesthetics of Repair
Michael Dango
Dango theorizes how aesthetic style manages crisis—and why taking crisis seriously means taking aesthetics seriously. Detoxing, filtering, bingeing, and ghosting: these are four actions that have come to define how people deal with living in a world apparently in permanent crisis. As Dango argues, these terms can also describe contemporary art and literature. The book discusses social media filters alongside the minimalism of Donald Judd and Michael Heizer, and the television shows The West Wing and True Detective. It reflects on the modernist cuisine of Ferran Adrià and the fashion design of Issey Miyake. And, it dissects the minimalism of contemporary art and literature.
"Irrepressibly illuminating."
—Anna Kornbluh, University of Illinois, Chicago

Reading the Obscene
Transgressive Editors and the Class Politics of US Literature
Jordan S. Carroll
Carroll reveals new insights about the editors who fought the most famous anti-censorship battles of the twentieth century. As Carroll argues, transgressive editors, such as H. L. Mencken at the Smart Set and the American Mercury, William Gaines and Al Feldstein at EC Comics, Hugh Hefner, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, and Barney Rosset at Grove Press, taught their readers to approach even the most scandalizing texts with the same cold calculation and professional reserve they employed in their occupations. Along the way, these editors kicked off a middle-class sexual revolution in which white-collar professionals imagined they could control sexuality through management science. With this provocative work, Carroll calls into question some of the most sensational claims about obscenity, suggesting that when transgression becomes a sign of class distinction, we must abandon the idea that obscenity always overturns hierarchies and disrupts social order. "Thoroughly enjoyable."
—Sarah Brouillette, Carleton University
**Incremental Realism**

Postwar American Fiction, Happiness, and Welfare-State Liberalism

Mary Esteve

Esteve argues that era-defining authors of realist fiction—including Philip Roth, Gwendolyn Brooks, Patricia Highsmith, Paula Fox, Peter Taylor, and Mary McCarthy—embraced specific symbols of happiness and developed narrative modes—"incremental realism"—that made justifiable the claims of disadvantaged Americans on the nation-state and promoted a small-canvas aesthetics of moderation. With this powerful demonstration of the way postwar literary fiction linked the era's familiar trope of individual flourishing, "incremental realism"—embraced specific symbols of happiness and developed narrative modes—"incremental realism"—that made justifiable the claims of disadvantaged Americans on the nation-state and promoted a small-canvas aesthetics of moderation. With this powerful demonstration of the way postwar literary fiction linked the era's familiar trope of individual flourishing, "incremental realism"—embraced specific symbols of happiness and developed narrative modes—"incremental realism"—that made justifiable the claims of disadvantaged Americans on the nation-state and promoted a small-canvas aesthetics of moderation. With this powerful demonstration of the way postwar literary fiction linked the era's familiar trope of individual flourishing, "incremental realism"—embraced specific symbols of happiness and developed narrative modes—"incremental realism"—that made justifiable the claims of disadvantaged Americans on the nation-state and promoted a small-canvas aesthetics of moderation. With this powerful demonstration of the way postwar literary fiction linked the era's familiar trope of individual flourishing, "incremental realism"—embraced specific symbols of happiness and developed narrative modes—"incremental realism"—that made justifiable the claims of disadvantaged Americans on the nation-state and promoted a small-canvas aesthetics of moderation. With this powerful demonstration of the way postwar literary fiction linked the era's familiar trope of individual flourishing, "incremental realism"—embraced specific symbols of happiness and developed narrative modes—"incremental realism"—that made justifiable the claims of disadvantaged Americans on the nation-state and promoted a small-canvas aesthetics of moderation. With this powerful demonstration of the way postwar literary fiction linked the era's familiar trope of individual flourishing, "incremental realism"—embraced specific symbols of happiness and developed narrative modes—"incremental realism"—that made justifiable the claims of disadvantaged Americans on the nation-state and promoted a small-canvas aesthetics of moderation. With this powerful demonstration of the way postwar literary fiction linked the era's familiar trope of individual flourishing, "incremental realism"—embraced specific symbols of happiness and developed narrative modes—"incremental realism"—that made justifiable the claims of disadvantaged Americans on the nation-state and promoted a small-canvas aesthetics of moderation. With this powerful demonstration of the way postwar literary fiction linked the era's familiar trope of individual flourishing, "incremental realism"—embraced specific symbols of happiness and developed narrative modes—"incremental realism"—that made justifiable the claims of disadvantaged Americans on the nation-state and promoted a small-canvas aesthetics of moderation. With this powerful demonstration of the way postwar literary fiction linked the era's familiar trope of individual flourishing, "incremental realism"—embraced specific symbols of happiness and developed narrative modes—"incremental realism"—that made justifiable the claims of disadvantaged Americans on the nation-state and promoted a small-canvas aesthetics of moderation. With this powerful demonstration of the way postwar literary fiction linked the era's familiar trope of individual flourishing, "incremental realism"—embraced specific symbols of happiness and developed narrative modes—"incremental realism"—that made justifiable the claims of disadvantaged Americans on the nation-state and promoted a small-canvas aesthetics of moderation. With this powerful demonstration of the way postwar literary fiction linked the era's familiar trope of individual flourishing, "incremental realism"—embraced specific symbols of happiness and developed narrative modes—"incremental realism"—that made justifiable the claims of disadvantaged Americans on the nation-state and promoted a small-canvas aesthetics of moderation. With this powerful demonstration of the way postwar literary fiction linked the era's familiar trope of individual flourishing, "incremental realism"—embraced specific symbols of happiness and developed narrative modes—"incremental realiz
Cultural Memory in the Present

Niklaus Largier

Foregrounding the ways in which devotion builds on experimental practices of figuration in order to shape perception, emotions, and thoughts anew, Largier illuminates how devotional practices are invested in the creation of possibilities, and how this investment has been a key element in a wide range of experimental engagements in literature and art from the 17th to the 20th century, and most recently in forms of ‘new materialism.’ Read as a history of the senses and emotions, the book argues that mystical and devotional practices have long been invested in the modulating and reconfiguring of sensation, affects, and thoughts. Read as a book about practices of figuration, it questions ordinary protocols of interpretation in the humanities, and the priority given to a hermeneutic understanding of texts and cultural artefacts.

Aesthetic Experience, Mysticism, and the Play of the Senses

Eric B. Song

Are we unique as individuals, or are we replaceable? Seventeenth-century English literature pursues these questions through depictions of marriage. The writings studied in this book elevate a love between two individuals who deem each other to be unique to the point of being irreplaceable and this vocabulary allows writers to put affective pressure on the meaning of marriage as Pauline theology defines it. Stubbornly individual, love threatens to short-circuit marriage’s function in directing intimate feelings toward a corporate experience of Christ’s love. Starting at the end of the sixteenth century with Edmund Spenser, and then exploring works by William Shakespeare, William Davenant, John Milton, Lucy Hutchinson, and Aphra Behn, Song offers a new reading of selections from Georges Sorel’s In Badiou’s thought, while providing a broad audience, the book touches upon all the major concepts of Badiou’s philosophy and illustrates them with fitting examples. A veritable tour de force of pedagogical clarity, this is perhaps the simple best general introduction to the work of this prolific and committed thinker. If, for Badiou, the task of philosophy consists in thinking through the truths of our time, the texts collected in this small volume could not be timelier.

Cultural Memory in the Present

Hector Hayas, author of Things with a History

“Captures the latest developments in Badiou’s thought, while providing an excellent introduction for new readers.”

Religion

Michel Serres

Translated by Malcolm DeBevoise

With this profound final work, completed in the days leading up to his death, Serres presents a vivid picture of his thinking about religion. Themes from Serres’s earlier writings—energy and information, the role of the media in modern society, the anthropological function of sacrifice, the role of scientific knowledge, the problem of evil—are reinterpreted here in the light of the Old Testament accounts of Isaac and Jonah and the many Gospel episodes. Monotheistic religion, Serres argues, resembles mathematical abstraction in its dazzling power to bring together the real and the virtual, the natural and the transcendent; but only in its Christian embodiment is it capable of binding together human beings in such a way that partisan attachments are dissolved and a new era of history, free for once of the lethal repetition of collective violence, can be entered into.

Cultural Memory in the Present

Edward Said, author of Orientalism

“...the new, fully annotated translation of a classic of modern political theory. The volume includes notes and fragments by Benjamin along with passages from all of the contemporaneous texts to which his essay refers: provocative arguments about law and violence advanced by Hermann Cohen, Kurt Hilfer, Erich Unger, and Emil Lederer; a new translation of selections from Georges Sorel’s Reflections on Violence; and, for the first time in any language, a bibliography Benjamin drafted for the expansion of the essay and the development of a corresponding philosophy of law. “The most comprehensible version yet of Benjamin’s compelling and demanding essay.”

Marking the centenary of Walter Benjamin’s influential essay, “Toward the Critique of Violence,” this critical edition presents readers with a new, fully annotated translation of a classic of modern political theory. The volume includes notes and fragments by Benjamin along with passages from all of the contemporaneous texts to which his essay refers: provocative arguments about law and violence advanced by Hermann Cohen, Kurt Hilfer, Erich Unger, and Emil Lederer; a new translation of selections from Georges Sorel’s Reflections on Violence; and, for the first time in any language, a bibliography Benjamin drafted for the expansion of the essay and the development of a corresponding philosophy of law. “The most comprehensible version yet of Benjamin’s compelling and demanding essay.”

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The Critique of Nonviolence

Martin Luther King, Jr., and Philosophy

Mark Christian Thompson

How does Martin Luther King, Jr. understand race philosophically and how did this understanding lead him to develop an ontological conception of racial police violence? Tracking the presence of twentieth-century German philosophy and theology in his thought, the book situates King's ontology conceptually and socially in nonviolent protest. In so doing, The Critique of Nonviolence reads King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" (1963) with Walter Benjamin's "Critique of Violence" (1921) to reveal the depth of King's political-theological critique of police violence as the illegitimate appropriation of the racialized state of exception that permits the perpetual American state and its relationship to the cosmos. Humans, instead self-reflexively reflecting on whether creativity itself is, at root, a nonhuman information system that performs more like a script on contemporary AI research which attempts to build systems that perform more like humans, instead self-reflexively making a very non-traditional argument about AI's impact on society and its relationship to the cosmos. This book is an expression of the truth that you're a robot. —Marita Sturken, author of Tourists of History

The Paranoid Chronotope

Power, Truth, Identity

Frida Beckman

This book identifies and illuminates paranoia as a significant feature of contemporary U.S. society and culture. Centering on three key dimensions — power, truth, and identity — in three different contexts — society, literature, and critique — the book explores the increasing influence of paranoid thinking in U.S. society during the second half of the twentieth century and first decades of the twenty-first, a period which has seen the rise of control systems and neoliberal ascendency. Inquiring about the predominance of white, male, American subjects in paranoid culture, Beckman recognizes an antagonistic maintenance and fortification of a conception of the autonomous individual that perceives itself as under threat. Identifying such paranoia as emerging from an increasingly disjunctive relation between this conception of the subject and the changing nature of the public sphere, she develops the concept of the paranoid chronotope as a tool for theoretical analysis of social, literary, and critical practices today.

Nothing Happened

A History

Susan A. Crane

What does it mean to look at the past and to remember that “nothing happened”? Why might we feel as if “nothing is the way it was”? This book transforms these utterly ordinary observations and redefines “Nothing” as something we have known and can remember. By paying attention to how we understand Nothing to be happening in the present, what it means to “know Nothing” or to “do Nothing,” we can begin to ask how those experiences will be remembered. Crane moves effortlessly between different modes of seeing Nothing, drawing on visual analysis and cultural studies to suggest a new way of thinking about history. By remembering how Nothing happened, we can recover histories that were there all along. “Clever and funny and serious and illuminating. You won’t want to put it down.”

—Marita Sturken, author of Tourists of History

My Life as an Artificial Creative Intelligence

Mark Amerika

Is it possible that creative artists have more in common with machines than we might think? Employing an improvisational call-and-response writing performance co-authored with an AI text generator, Amerika interrogates how his own “psychic automatism” is itself a nonhuman function strategically designed to reveal the poetic attributes of programmable worlds still unimagined. Through a series of intellectual provocations, Amerika critically reflects on whether creativity itself is, at root, a nonhuman information behavior that emerges from an ontological operation of an otherworldly aesthetic sensibility. Playful and provocative, My Life as an Artificial Creative Intelligence flips the script on contemporary AI research which attempts to build systems that perform more like humans, instead self-reflexively making a very non-traditional argument about AI's impact on society and its relationship to the cosmos.

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Sensing Media

288 pages, May 2022
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Projecting Spirits
Speculation, Providence, and Early Modern Optical Media
Pasi Väliaho
The history of projected images at the turn of the seventeenth century reveals a changing perception of chance and order, contingency and form. Väliaho maps how the leading optical media of the period—the camera obscura and the magic lantern—developed in response to, and framed, the era’s key intellectual dilemma of whether the world fell under God’s providential care, or was subject to chance and open to speculation. As Väliaho shows, camera obscuras and magic lanterns were variously employed to give the world an intelligible and manageable design. Drawing on a range of materials—philosophical, scientific and religious literature, visual arts, correspondence, poems, pamphlets, and illustrations—this provocative and inventive work expands our concept of the early media of projection, revealing how they spoke to early modern thinkers, and shaped a new, speculative vision of the world.

Divining Nature
Aesthetics of Enchantment in Enlightenment France
Tili Boon Cuillé
The Enlightenment remains widely associated with the rise of scientific progress and the loss of religious faith. In her wide-ranging and richly illustrated book, Cuillé questions the accuracy of this narrative by investigating the fate of the marvelous in the age of reason, showing that the marvelous was not eradicated but instead preserved and through the establishment and reform of major French cultural institutions.

Prose of the World
Denis Diderot and the Periphery of Enlightenment
Hans Ulrich Gumbrecht
Philosopher, translator, novelist, art critic, and editor of the Encyclopédie, Denis Diderot was one of the liveliest figures of the Enlightenment. But how might we delineate the contours of his diverse oeuvre, which is clearly characterized by a centrifugal dynamic? Conjuring scenes from Diderot’s turn of turns turbulent and quiet life, offering close readings of several key books, and probing the motif of a tension between physical perception and conceptual experience, Gumbrecht demonstrates how Diderot belonged to a vivid intellectual periphery that included protagonists such as Lichtenberg, Goya, and Mozart. With this provocative, elegant work, he elaborates the existential preoccupations of this periphery, revealing the way they speak to us today.

The Afterlife of Enclosure
British Realism, Character, and the Commons
Carolyn Lesjak
The enclosure of the commons was an act of “slow violence” that transformed lands, labor, and basic concepts of public life leading into the nineteenth century. This book boldly reconceives the realist novel as witness to this material and environmental dispossession—and bearer of utopian energies. Illuminating the common at the heart of the novel—from common characters to commonplace events—Lesjak reveals an experimental fiction of a once-defining feature of the British landscape and political imaginary. In the face of privatization, climate change, and the other forms of slow violence today, this book looks back to a literature of historical trauma and locates within it a radical path forward.

Victorian Contingencies
Experiments in Literature, Science, and Play
Tina Young Choi
Victorian Contingencies shows how scientists, novelists, and consumers engaged in new formal and material experiments with cause and effect, past and present, that actively undermined routine certainties. Examining the reinvented geological and natural histories of Charles Lyell and Charles Darwin, Charles Babbage’s designs for a machine capable of responding to a contingent future, and novelists George Eliot and Lewis Carroll alongside physicist James Clerk Maxwell, Choi traces contingency across materials and media. And she explores the popular board games and pre-cinematic visual entertainments that encouraged Victorians to navigate a world made newly uncertain. This book invites a deep and multidisciplinary reassessment of the longer histories of causality, and the aesthetic phenomenon that is itself an aesthetic phenomenon explored by Romantic poets, and shows the provocations that disturb and disrupt, invite and compel. Examining the formal tactics of Charlotte Smith, William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, John Keats, and Percy Bysshe Shelley, alongside their rejections to historical events such as Toussaint Louverture’s revolt, Mathes reveals that an aesthetics of radical openness is central to the development of literary theory, and criticism in Romantic Britain.
phenomena. “A definitive overview of one of technology. culture shapes and is shaped by useful—way to understand how sensibility of online felines. Inter-soul of the internet informed the different communities for the cute culture, and the battle among few know how it started. Everyone understands the joke, but cats” seems to need no explanation. The line “the internet is made of [27x262]japonisme [27x268]built the internet, White shows history of the communities that became the internet’s best friend. Bringing together fun anecdotes, thoughtful analyses, and hidden history of the communities that built the internet, White shows how japonisme, punk culture, cute culture, and the battle among different communities for the soul of the internet informed the sensibility of online felines. Internet cats thus offer a playful—and useful—way to understand how culture shapes and is shaped by technology. “A definitive overview of one of online culture’s least understood phenomena.” —Ethan Zuckerman, MIT

**A Unified Theory of Cats on the Internet**
E.J. White

The line “the internet is made of cats” seems to need no explanation. Everyone understands the joke, but few know how it started. *A Unified Theory of Cats on the Internet* is the first book to explore how the cat became the internet’s best friend. Bringing together fun anecdotes, thoughtful analyses, and hidden history of the communities that built the internet, White shows how japonisme, punk culture, cute culture, and the battle among different communities for the soul of the internet informed the sensibility of online felines. Internet cats thus offer a playful—and useful—way to understand how culture shapes and is shaped by technology.

**Crowds**
The Stadium as a Ritual of Intensity
Hans Ulrich Gumbrecht

Finalist for the 2020 Football Book of the Year Award from the German Academy for Football Culture

Anyone who has ever experienced a sporting event in a large stadium knows the energy that emanates from stands full of fans cheering on their teams. Although “the masses” have long held a thoroughly bad reputation in politics and culture, literary critic and avid sports fan Gumbrecht finds powerful, as yet unexplored reason to sing the praises of crowds. Drawing on his experiences as a spectator in the stadiums of South America, Germany, and the US, Gumbrecht presents the stadium as “a ritual of intensity,” thereby offering a different lens through which we might capture and even appreciate the dynamic of the masses. Pairing philosophical rigor with the enthusiasm of a true fan, Gumbrecht writes from the inside and suggests that being part of a crowd opens us up to an experience beyond ourselves.

**Uncle Tom**
From Martyr to Traitor
Adena Spingarn


272 pages, October 2021 9781503636288 Paper $25.00 $20.00 sale

**The Re-Enchantment of the World**
Secular Magic in a Rational Age
Edited by Joshua Landy and Michael Saler

“One of those rare books that creates a paradigm shift in a topic of real importance.” —Simon During, Johns Hopkins University

403 pages, April 2021 9781503628946 Paper $28.00 $22.40 sale

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**Digital Publishing Initiative**

Stanford University Press, with generous support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, is developing a groundbreaking publishing program in the digital humanities and social sciences. Visit sup.org/digital for more information and a list of forthcoming publications.

**Feral Atlas**
The More-Than-Human Anthropocene
Edited by Anna L. Tsing, Jennifer Deger, Alder Keleman Saxena, and Feifei Zhou

As the planet erupts with human and nonhuman distress, *Feral Atlas* delves into the details, exposing world-ripping entanglements between human infrastructure and nonhumans. More than one hundred scientists, humanists, and artists contribute to an original and playful approach to studying our relationship with the world.

**Constructing the Sacred**
Visibility and Ritual Landscape at the Egyptian Necropolis of Saqqara
Elaine A. Sullivan

Utilizing 3D technologies, *Constructing the Sacred* addresses ancient ritual landscape from a unique perspective to examine development at the complex, long-lived archaeological site of Saqqara, Egypt. Elaine A. Sullivan focuses on how changes in the built and natural environment affected burial rituals at the temple due to changes in visibility.

**Black Quotidian**
Everyday History in African-American Newspapers
Matthew F. Delmont

*Black Quotidian* explores everyday lives of African Americans in the twentieth century. Drawing on an archive of digitized African-American newspapers, Matthew F. Delmont guides readers through a wealth of primary resources that reveal how the Black press popularized African-American history and valued the lives of both famous and ordinary Black people.

**The Chinese Deathscape**
Grave Reform in Modern China
Edited by Thomas S. Mulaney

In the past decade alone, more than ten million corpses have been exhumed and reburied across the Chinese landscape. In this digital volume, three historians of China, Jeffrey Snyder-Reinke, Christian Henriot, and Thomas S. Mulaney, chart out the history of China’s rapidly shifting deathscape. Each essay grapples with a different dimension of grave relocation and burial reform in China over the past three centuries.