



Sexuality: An Illustrated History

By Sander L. Gilman

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In this fascinating book, Sander L. Gilman traces the history of how sexuality has been represented in Western civilization since the advent of Christianity. In so doing, he shows how these cultures define themselves and are shaped by their concepts of beauty and ugliness, masculinity and femininity, health and sickness, the sacred and profane. Gilman demonstrates how such concepts are elements in the greater tapestry of Western culture, through which run threads that have remained unbroken for nearly two millennia.

With the help of over three-hundred and twenty pictorial representations produced throughout the ages (most of them unavailable elsewhere), he provides a thorough, comparative look at the foundations and mechanisms of Western sexual constructs and their impact on every aspect of life. From the Middle Ages through current myth-making about AIDS, he draws on materials from medicine, anatomy, pathology, art, and literature to show how ideas of the body and the sexual are and have been portrayed.

Sexuality: An Illustrated History is a fascinating-and sometimes disturbing-contribution to the current discourse on sexual ethics and politics. It helps in defining sexuality and the understanding and portrayal of the body as a social and historical phenomenon while exposing the sources and mechanisms of cultures' most deep-seated prejudices.

Sander L. Gilman, PhD, is a distinguished professor of the Liberal Arts and Sciences as well as Professor of Psychiatry at Emory University. A respected educator, he has served as Old Dominion Visiting Professor of English at Princeton; Northrop Frye Visiting Professor of Comparative Literature at the University of Toronto; Mellon Visiting Professor of Humanities at Tulane University; Goldwin Smith Professor of Humane Studies at Cornell University; and Professor of the History of Psychiatry at Cornell Medical College. He has written and edited several books including *The Face of Madness* and *Seeing the Insane*.

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Editorial Review

From the Publisher

A pictorial cultural history of the images and iconography of sexuality in the Western world, from the Middle Ages down to the present. The first book of its type, this beautifully illustrated work contains 328 plates, many heretofore unknown, which comprise the visual tradition of human sexuality. Traces mythmaking about the sexual form, from the early cultural roots of Christianity to more recent mythmaking about AIDS, drawing on material from medicine, anatomy, pathology, art, and literature to show how our idea of the body and its sexuality has been portrayed. Includes new material on Jack the Ripper, and new interpretations on the contributions of Da Vinci and Goethe.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Drennan:

The book Sexuality: An Illustrated History make one feel enjoy for your spare time. You need to use to make your capable far more increase. Book can to be your best friend when you getting pressure or having big problem along with your subject. If you can make reading a book Sexuality: An Illustrated History being your habit, you can get far more advantages, like add your own personal capable, increase your knowledge about several or all subjects. It is possible to know everything if you like open and read a publication Sexuality: An Illustrated History. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science reserve or encyclopedia or other people. So , how do you think about this reserve?

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Jeri McKeen:

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