



Compulsive Beauty

Hal Foster

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"In exhilarating, thoughtful and subtle arguments, Foster takes surrealist interpretations of psychoanalysis into a shocking encounter with the Freudian uncanny.... [An] extremely important book".

-- Jane Beckett, "Times Higher Education Supplement" Surrealism has long been seen as its founder, Andre Breton, wanted it to be seen: as a movement of love and liberation. In Compulsive Beauty, Foster reads surrealism from its other, darker side: as an art given over to the uncanny, to the compulsion to repeat and the drive toward death.

Compulsive Beauty not only offers a deconstructive reading of surrealism, long neglected by Anglo-American art history, it also participates in a postmodern reconsideration of modernism, the dominant accounts of which have obscured its involvements in desire and trauma, capitalist shock and technological development.

Compulsive Beauty Details

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Kathryn says

Sometimes I really hate Hal Foster, but that's why I love him.

Bennett says

since i bought this book in the Dean Gallery bookshop in 2000 it has been one of my essential "to hand" books on surrealism. deftly exploring the Freudian dimension of the work of (pre WW2) surrealists, it weaves an illuminating web of cultural and poetic resonances around the work of Ernst, Breton, Bellmer, et al. very highly recommended (if you're into surrealism and/or psychoanalysis)

Curt Bozif says

I learned (again) that love is homesickness.
