



The Passionate Camera: Photography and Bodies of Desire

By Deborah Bright



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The Passionate Camera brings together over fifty artists, scholars and critics to address a broad range of issues in photography and sexuality. The authors address the importance of reinterpreting historical works by known homosexual photographers, issues in contemporary photography and sexual diversity, and the use and abuse of photographs of sexual subjects in current political campaigns and direct activism. *The Passionate Camera* features color and black and white illustrations of works by artists such as Ajamu, Catherine Opie, Lyle Ashton, Yasumasa Morimura, John O'Reilly and Sunil Gupta. For the first time, these works have been gathered together in a lucid and accessible critical context, making *The Passionate Camera* the pre-eminent source on queer and sex-radical photography at the end of the twentieth century.



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Editorial Review

Review

"The Passionate Camera is fairly equally oriented toward queer male and female imagery."

-Feminist Bookstore News, January/February 1999

"The "Passionate Camera provides vibrant, rigorous and pleasurable readings of sex work in the practice of photography and the field of photographic criticism of recent years..It is Bright's role as creative and shrewd editor that makes "The Passionate Camera such an exceptional volume. The book has an inner consistency that is uncommon in anthologies; the different essays flow into one another in a productive and lyrical manner. The three sections are metered by provocative photo essays and end with pointed short stories by artist and writer Catherine Lord."

-"afterimage, March/April 1999

""The Passionate Camera . . . departs from the stale formula of academic publishing and provides vibrant, rigorous and pleasurable readings of sex work in the practice of photography and the field of photographic criticism of recent years . . . [Bright's] extraordinary introduction to the volume succeeds in its formidable task of making sense of the past 15 years of photography and queer cultural politics. . . . and through this furthers the emergence of queer studies in academia "The Passionate Camera will surely be widely used as an indispensable theoretical and historical document on queer visual culture at the end of the millennium. It has endless potential as a course textbook and library resource. The contributors' confident and committed collective gaze rests on a troubled past and on an unsettling present, but they all reassert the besieged queer body of desire into the future."

-Afterimage, March 1999

"The success of this new anthology of images and texts derives from the fact that Deborah Bright is equally gifted as an artist, a teacher, and critical theorist. The cumulative insights of "The Passionate Camera are both vibrantly comprehensive and intensely personal; these multi-disciplinary studies map radical approaches to the pungent complexities of photographs that are sexually charged."

-Trevor Fairbrother, Deputy Director of Art, Seattle Art Museum

"While engaging the challenge queer politics presents to the status quo, the contributions to "The Passionate Camera illuminate the central position that supposed minorities of all kinds hold in contemporary culture. An amazing collection of essays and photographs, the book is a multifaceted exploration of the body, sexuality, and consensus culture that is theoretically smart, beautifully written, and a pleasure to peruse."

-Carol Squires, Senior Editor, American Photo magazine

About the Author

Deborah Bright is Associate Professor of Photography and Art History at the Rhode Island School of Design.

Users Review

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