1. Record Nr. UNINA9910466456603321 Autore Jackson Michael <1940-> Titolo The work of art: rethinking the elementary forms of religious life // Michael Jackson Pubbl/distr/stampa New York:,: Columbia University Press,, [2016] ©2016 **ISBN** 0-231-54199-6 1 online resource (273 pages): illustrations Descrizione fisica Collana Insurrections: critical studies in religion, politics, and culture Disciplina 201/.67 Art and religion Soggetti Electronic books. Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di bibliografia Frontmatter -- Contents -- List of Figures -- Preamble -- Part 1 --Nota di contenuto Part 2 -- Part 3 -- Notes -- Acknowledgments -- Permissions -- Index Sommario/riassunto How are we to think of works of art? Rather than treat art as an expression of individual genius, market forces, or aesthetic principles, Michael Jackson focuses on how art effects transformations in our lives. Art opens up transitional, ritual, or utopian spaces that enable us to reconcile inward imperatives and outward constraints, thereby making our lives more manageable and meaningful. Art allows us to strike a balance between being actors and being acted upon. Drawing on his ethnographic fieldwork in Aboriginal Australia and West Africa, as well as insights from psychoanalysis, religious studies, literature, and the philosophy of art, Jackson deploys an extraordinary range of references-from Bruegel to Beuys, Paleolithic art to performance art, Michelangelo to Munch-to explore the symbolic labor whereby human beings make themselves, both individually and socially, out of the

environmental, biographical, and physical materials that affect them: a process that connects art with gestation, storytelling, and dreaming

and illuminates the elementary forms of religious life.