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Feminine Beauty and Their Body Esteem / Pierre Wilhelm and Marianela Morales Calatayud -- The Absolution of the Beautiful Horror: The Erotic and the Sublime in Representations of War / Alberto José Viralhadas Ferreira -- Beauty at the Service of Humanity: A Review on the Therapeutic Value of Aesthetic Treatments / Eva Carpigo -- The Beauty Landscape: Why the Role of the Web on Aesthetic Surgery Matters / Rebecca Nash -- Decline of Perceived Beauty: Facial Representations between the 18th and 20th Century in Western Art / Javier de la Rosa , Natalia Caldas , Nandita Dutta and Juan Luis Suárez -- Digital Beauties: Strategies of Self-Presentation and Resistance / Olga Vainshtein -- Beauty and the Politics of Translation / Jane Elisabeth Wilhelm -- Sing a Soundless Song for Beauty: Beauty in Literature and Music through Shen Congwen's Fengzi / Qianwei He -- Beauty in Economics: On the Literary Character of Mathematical Models / Oliver Fohrmann -- Beauty as Ideological Enemy: Corporal Re-Education of Female Inmates in Yugoslav Political Prisons (1949-1956) / Milica Proki -- Rejection of Beauty: An Unsightly Appearance as a Form of Nonverbal Communication / Marta Kargól -- Gagging Beauty / Laini Burton -- The Ugly Problem: The Lived Experience / Jacque Lynn Foltyn -- Perceiving One's Own Personal Beauty: Emotional indicators of the Identification Crisis / Vyacheslav Simonov and Irina Strebkova -- Tourist Resorts as Stages of Social Display: Beauty and Fashion in 1930s Estoril / Cristina Carvalho -- On Beauty: A Manifesto / Patricia A. Sayre.

Sommario/riassunto

Rather than accept society's 'preferred metaphors' about beauty at face value, the authors in this volume question the fact that beauty can also surprise us in the least foreseeable setting, at the most unexpected moment and in the most surprising or unsettling ways. Their work underscores beauty's ephemeral, transitory, fleeting and at times confounding nature. The way beauty reveals itself to us, they point out, may challenge or even contradict established conventions, norms and values about aesthetics. The emergence of unconventional metaphors and analogies about beauty in these chapters calls on us to pay attention to competing and seemingly intractable connotations of fear, darkness, ugliness, oppression, repression, callousness and dejection that won't leave us indifferent to their appeal. How we, as researchers, envisage beauty as a topic of investigation tells us as much about our conceptualization of beauty arising from particular scientific perceptions as about the language and symbols that express this perception. It raises the important question about why we rely on conceptual constructs to explain beauty and whether beauty remains a mystery to be explored or, ultimately, one best left unexplained.