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Autore	Menninghaus Winfried
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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Introduction -- 1. Competitive Courtship and Aesthetic Judgment/Choice: Darwin's Model of the Arts -- 2. The Arts as Promoters of Social Cooperation and Cohesion -- 3. Engagement in the Arts as Ontogenetic Self-(Trans-)Formation -- 4. A Cooptation Model of the Evolution of the Human Arts: When "Sense of Beauty," Play Behavior, Technology, and Symbolic Cognition Join Forces -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Darwin famously proposed that sexual competition and courtship is (or at least was) the driving force of "art" production not only in animals, but also in humans. The present book is the first to reveal that Darwin's hypothesis, rather than amounting to a full-blown antidote to the humanist tradition, is actually strongly informed both by classical rhetoric and by English and German philosophical aesthetics, thereby Darwin's theory far richer and more interesting for the understanding of poetry and song. The book also discusses how the three most discussed hypothetical functions of the human arts--competition for attention and (loving) acceptance, social cooperation, and self-enhancement--are not mutually exclusive, but can well be conceived of as different aspects of the same processes of producing and

responding to the arts. Finally, reviewing the current state of archeological findings, the book advocates a new hypothesis on the multiple origins of the human arts, posing that they arose as new variants of human behavior, when three ancient and largely independent adaptations--sensory and sexual selection-driven biases regarding visual and auditory beauty, play behavior, and technology--joined forces with, and were transformed by, the human capacities for symbolic cognition and language.

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