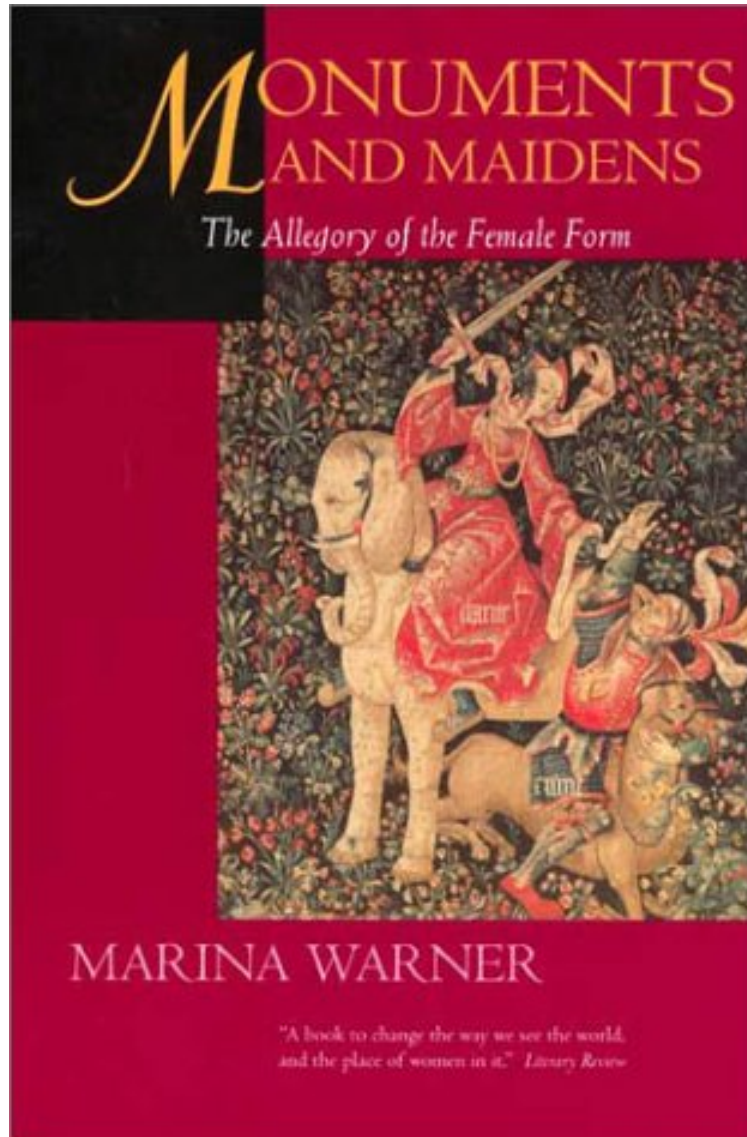


[Online library] Monuments and Maidens: The Allegory of the Female Form

Monuments and Maidens: The Allegory of the Female Form

Marina Warner

ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#6129554 in Books 2001-04-24Format: Bargain PricePDF # 1 9.00 x 1.25 x 6.00l, #File Name: B004JZWZFU440 pages | File size: 55.Mb

Marina Warner : Monuments and Maidens: The Allegory of the Female Form before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Monuments and Maidens: The Allegory of the Female Form:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Anne AndrewsThank you1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. excellent, though a bit highbrowBy Ginny RoseFound this book a bit heavy slogging in the middle, but really enjoyed the first and third parts. Wish she'd spent more time on Part One The Female Presence

Today, but instead the majority of the book is Part Two on the Figure in Myth that spiraled into dusty details beyond my interest. That said, however, the writing is erudite, the scholarship superb, and the attention to the forgotten goddess figures all around us was just what I was looking for. Highly recommended.

Marina Warner explores the tradition of personifying liberty, justice, wisdom, charity, and other ideals and desiderata in the female form, and examines the tension between women's historic and symbolic roles. Drawing on the evidence of public art, especially sculpture, and painting, poetry, and classical mythology, she ranges over the allegorical presence of the woman in the Western tradition with a sharply observant eye and a piquant and engaging style.

From Publishers Weekly
Examining an impressive scope of material art (Donatello, Vermeer, Judy Chicago), Greek mythology, the Bible, literature, linguistics and mass media Warner (*Alone of All Her Sex*) traces the different meanings which have been ascribed to the female form throughout the ages. "Liberty is not represented by a woman because women were and are free"; allegory by definition requires a gap (and a resemblance) between the ideal and the real. But there is a give-and-take of meaning between the female fantasy figures Athena, Wisdom, Temperance, et al. and actual women. Warner suggests that some women (the armed maidens of Justice and Chastity, etc.) may take on male personas (the brandished weapons) to best shield themselves from the masculine code. Pandora, the first woman of classical myth, and Eve, the mother in the Judeo-Christian story, bear the burden of men's dreams: made and named by others, agents of calamity through the desire they inspire but do not experience themselves. Unlike men, women lose their individuality as they become universal symbols, and the only way to rid the female form of contaminated meanings is "to respect the individual inside the symbol" to look through the Statue of Liberty's eyes to see that she can represent freedom only if we were to forget the female condition. The difficulty with this sometimes brilliant study is that, like the history it examines, it never comes to rest with an unchanging definition. Illustrated. November 25
Copyright 1985 Reed Business Information, Inc.
From Library Journal
Warner investigates a recurrent motif in allegory, "the female form as an expression of desiderata and virtues," looking at literary and visual forms from classical times to the present. She assumes a working knowledge of classical writings, but her presentation is clearly thought out, and not burdened down with jargon, esoterica, or non-sequiturs. At the center of Warner's argument is an attempt to understand the paradox of using the form of a woman to represent ideas that are not considered womanly (Justice is represented as a woman, but not because women are thought to be just). She raises issues that are important to the continued development of a scholarly discipline of women's studies, as well as breaking new ground in the literary interpretation of traditional myths and images. Highly recommended. Patricia Scott, Comparative Arts Dept., Ohio Univ., Chillicothe
Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Why should Truth be a woman? or Nature? or Justice? or Liberty? Not, certainly, because women have been more free, just, truthful, nor even (though this has a double edge) more natural. Marina Warner sets out to breathe some life into the army of petrified personages that litters Western cityscapes."--Lorna Sage, "Observer"