



# The Aesthetic Unconscious

*By Jacques Rancière*

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## The Aesthetic Unconscious By Jacques Rancière

This book is not concerned with the use of Freudian concepts for the interpretation of literary and artistic works. Rather, it is concerned with why this interpretation plays such an important role in demonstrating the contemporary relevance of psychoanalytic concepts.

In order for Freud to use the Oedipus complex as a means for the interpretation of texts, it was necessary first of all for a particular notion of Oedipus, belonging to the Romantic reinvention of Greek antiquity, to have produced a certain idea of the power of that thought which does not think, and the power of that speech which remains silent.

From this it does not follow that the Freudian unconscious was already prefigured by the aesthetic unconscious. Freud's 'aesthetic' analyses reveal instead a tension between the two forms of unconscious. In this concise and brilliant text Rancière brings out this tension and shows us what is at stake in this confrontation.

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## Editorial Review

### Review

'One of today's foremost French philosophers offers here a fascinating and illuminating take on the relevance of Freudian concepts and psychoanalytic interpretations, as emerging from the yet to be discovered meaning of the 19th century aesthetic revolution. In a philosophical dialogue with Lyotard, Rancière contends that the Freudian inheritance that valorizes pathos over logos, goes against the grain of Freud's own effort to maintain their equal coexistence and inseparability: to preserve at once the pathos of the sickness and the logos of the cure. This erudite and brilliant book is a must-read for students of art, philosophy and psychoanalysis alike.'

**Shoshana Felman, Author of *Testimony (Crises of Witnessing)*, and *The Juridical Unconscious***

"Rancière offers a fascinating new optic through which to read psychoanalysis, and his original positioning of Freud in relation to art and literature is valuable in a field where partisan defences and blanket dismissals tend to hold sway."

***The Philosophers' Magazine***

### From the Back Cover

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#### Steven Huckins:

The event that you get from *The Aesthetic Unconscious* is the more deep you digging the information that hide in the words the more you get enthusiastic about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to recognise but *The Aesthetic Unconscious* giving you enjoyment feeling of reading. The article writer conveys their point in particular way that can be understood by anyone who read this because the author of this publication is well-known enough. This kind of book also makes your current vocabulary increase well.

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