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Fetish: Fashion, Sex Power

By Valerie Steele

Oxford University Press, USA. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 280 pages. Dimensions: 9.9in. x 6.9in. x 0.8in. Kinky boots, corsets, underwear as outerwear, second-skin garments of rubber and leather, uniforms, body piercing. . . . Today everything from a fetishists dream appears on the fashion runways. Although some people regard fetish fashion as exploitative and misogynistic, others interpret it as a positive Amazonian statement-couture Catwoman. But the connection between fashion and fetishism goes far beyond a few couture collections. For the past thirty years, the iconography of sexual fetishism has been increasingly assimilated into popular culture. Before Michelle Pfeiffer's Catwoman, there was Mrs. Peel, heroine of the 1960s television show The Avengers, who wore a black leather catsuit modeled on a real fetish costume. Street styles like punk and the gay leatherman look also testify to the influence of fetishism. The concept of fetishism has recently assumed a growing importance in critical thinking about the cultural construction of sexuality. Yet until now no scholar with an in-depth knowledge of fashion history has studied the actual clothing fetishes themselves. Nor has there been a serious exploration of the historical relationship between fashion and fetishism, although erotic styles have changed significantly and sexual...


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