



Performance and Transformation : Three-dimensional Approach to Medieval Devotional and Ecstatic Texts

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This is a volume of essays that pushes the frontiers of interpretation on mystical and ecstatic writings of the later Middle Ages to explore them as particular performances. The contributors examine mysticism and spirituality from multiple performance perspectives: dramatic, kinesthetic, linguistic, and spatial. Emerging from work on ritual, performance, mysticism, and the body, the authors offer ways of analyzing these performances and their construction through questioning the various modes through which they were conveyed. Performance perspectives reveal womens public leadership roles within their communities, the nature of devotional reading and authoring in manuscript cultures, and womens roles in developing and performing rituals and texts that would transform future generations.

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