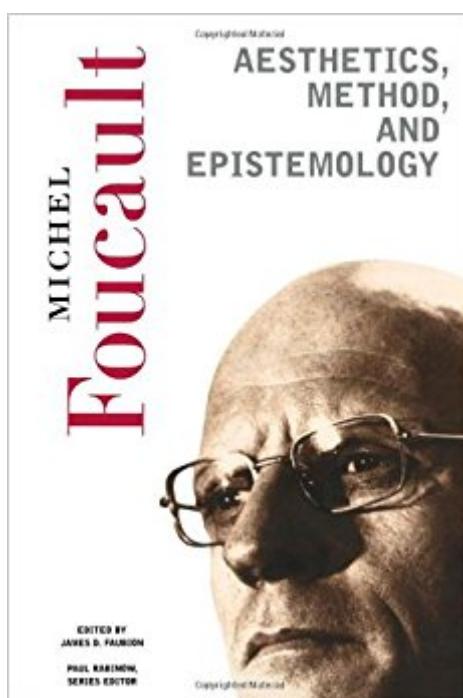


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Aesthetics, Method, And Epistemology (Essential Works Of Foucault, 1954-1984, Vol. 2)



Synopsis

Few philosophers have had as strong an influence on the twentieth century as Michel Foucault. His work has affected the teaching of any number of disciplines and remains, twenty years after his death, critically important. This newly available edition is drawn from the complete collection of all of Foucault's courses, articles, and interviews, and brings his most important work to a new generation of readers. *Aesthetics, Method and Epistemology* (edited by James D. Faubion) surveys Foucault's diverse but sustained address of the historical forms and interplay of passion, experience, and truth.

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Customer Reviews

The second of three volumes (following *Ethics: Subjectivity and Truth*, LJ 3/15/97) to be excerpted from the Gallimard collection of Foucault's oeuvre, this work provides American readers with diverse lectures, literary and film reviews, and interviews concerning language, literature, authorship, imagination, psychology, order, and history. At midpoint in the volume, the lecture "What is an author?" fairly describes the project of this series: "Writing unfolds like a game that invariably goes beyond its own rules and transgresses its limits." Each of these pieces is thoroughly self-contained but significant to a greater understanding of both its subject and its author. Wittily, one piece included here is Foucault's pseudonymously authored biographical dictionary entry on himself. For all scholars and many lay readers familiar with Foucault.

Francisca Goldsmith, Berkeley P.L., Cal.

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"Valuable new material . . . from one of the century's indispensable thinkers." —Boston Book Review

Amazing book. Very dense!

Incredibly incisive and important. No one else has written anything on par with this.

It is not so easy to determine where Foucault is attempting to go with his published books. In this sense, the books from "Madness and Civilization" to the 3rd "History of Sexuality" can be thought of as practical works that have specific institutional and discursive aims. Thus, they are short in explanation of the methodology and instead such intentions are available as they are practiced in the texts. For example, philosophers such as Nietzsche and Marx, to name a few, are hardly mentioned in Foucault's book; however, they are often evoked and utilised without obvious references or footnotes. As Deleuze once commented: Foucault doesn't say what to do, he just does it. Thus, Foucault's occasional essays, covering academic journals, popular press, lectures, introductions, and so on, serve to clue us, the readers, as to where Foucault is coming from, and, furthermore, in which direction his thought is heading. This edition, covering Foucault's superb writings on literature, his mentors, music, as well as other philosophical movements, situates a thinker within an intellectual context from his very own words. In "The Archaeology of Knowledge" Foucault begins by saying "do not ask me who I am..." To be sure, with this volume, we can begin to better understand Foucault without the interface of commentators and scholars. Directness of discourse is an important element in Foucault's thought... Although much of the pieces that appear here have been previously translated and released in a variety of formats, I predict that any scholar or occasional reader would be pleased to accept this redundancy for the very convenience that this collection presents. Some most interesting pieces include, the previously hard to find Foucault's response to Derrida's reading of "Madness and Civilization

Michel Foucault, I think should be read by anyone who read and liked Nietzsche.

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