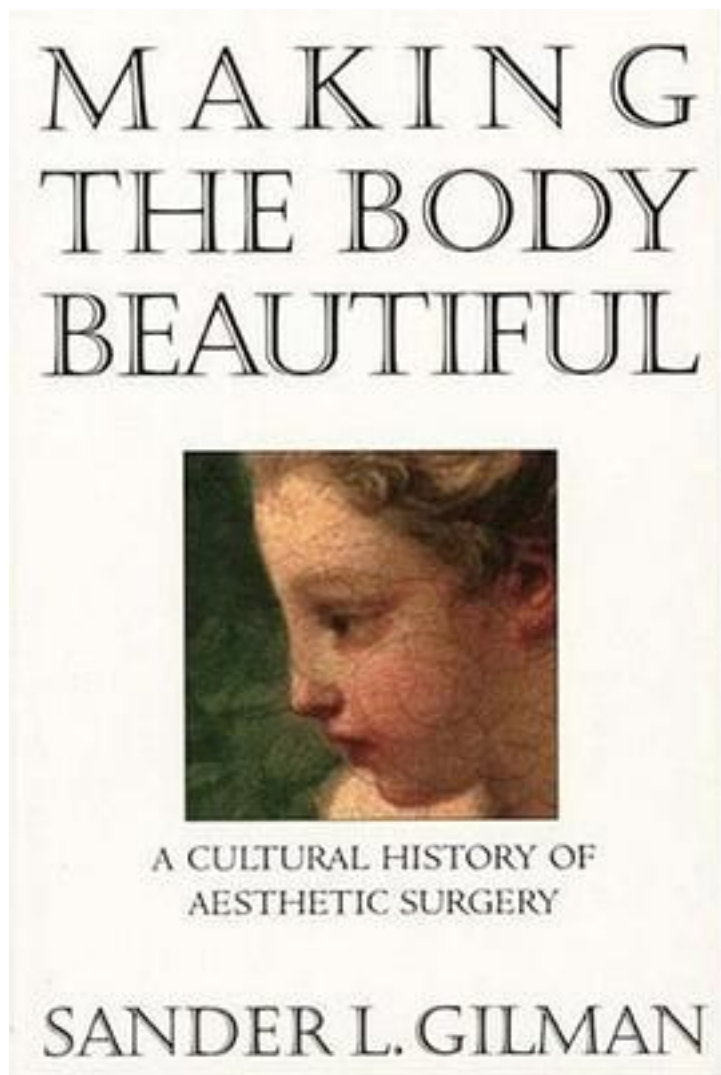


# Making the Body Beautiful



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著者:Sander L. Gilman

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Nose reconstructions have been common in India for centuries. South Korea, Brazil, and Israel have become international centers for procedures ranging from eyelid restructuring to buttock lifts and tummy tucks. Argentina has the highest rate of silicone implants in the world. Around the globe, aesthetic surgery has become a cultural and medical fixture. Sander Gilman seeks to explain why by presenting the first systematic world history and cultural theory of aesthetic surgery. Touching on subjects as diverse as getting a "nose job" as a sweet-sixteen birthday present and the removal of male breasts in seventh-century Alexandria, Gilman argues that aesthetic surgery has such universal appeal because it helps people to "pass," to be seen as a member of a group with which they want to or need to identify.</p></div>

Gilman begins by addressing basic questions about the history of aesthetic surgery. What surgical procedures have been performed? Which are considered aesthetic and why? Who are the patients? What is the place of aesthetic surgery in modern culture? He then turns his attention to that focus of countless human anxieties: the nose. Gilman discusses how people have reshaped their noses to repair the ravages of war and disease (principally syphilis), to match prevailing ideas of beauty, and to avoid association with negative images of the "Jew," the "Irish," the "Oriental," or the "Black." He examines how we have used aesthetic surgery on almost every conceivable part of the body to try to pass as younger, stronger, thinner, and more erotic. Gilman also explores some of the extremes of surgery as personal transformation, discussing transgender surgery, adult circumcision and foreskin restoration, the enhancement of dueling scars, and even a performance artist who had herself altered to resemble the Mona Lisa.</p></div>

The book draws on an extraordinary range of sources. Gilman is as comfortable discussing Nietzsche, Yeats, and Darwin as he is grisly medical details, Michael Jackson, and Barbra Streisand's decision to keep her own nose. The book contains dozens of arresting images of people before, during, and after surgery. This is a profound, provocative, and engaging study of how humans have sought to change their lives by transforming their bodies.</p></div>

作者介绍:

Sander L. Gilman is Distinguished Professor of the Liberal Arts and Sciences and Professor of Medicine, University of Illinois at Chicago; he is also Director of the Humanities Laboratory there. He is the author or editor of over fifty books, including *Seeing the Insane*, *Jewish Self-Hatred*, *The Jew's Body*, *Hysteria: A New History*, and *Freud, Race, and Gender* (Princeton).

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标签

批判理论

人类学

sex

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body

Body

Beauty

Appearance

## 评论

这是我读过比较难啃的书，作者语言能力应该很强，于是出现了各国语言乱入的情况，句子啰嗦且少断句，绕了一圈就不知道作者要说什么了。说是整容文化史，但主要集中在鼻子，脸部其他部位很少涉及，身体部位也草草略过，很是可惜。可能作者写的时候比较早，所以有些概念没有使用其中。整容的意义在过去和现在有很大的变化，如今整容成风，媒体天天鼓吹的爱自己和制造焦虑在其中起到了不小的作用，将谁谁谁整容当回事报道，凸显名人整容之后的光鲜亮丽，这些都是影响人们进行整容的原因。媒体之所以大肆报道，背后有消费文化和经济作用在支撑，这些是整容文化盛行的原因。作者忽略了这些因素，用了很多文学作品去说话，也没有说出个社会层面如何影响个人抉择，多在讲个人选择整容的原因是要过渡。

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今天这个essay靠它写的很容易

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