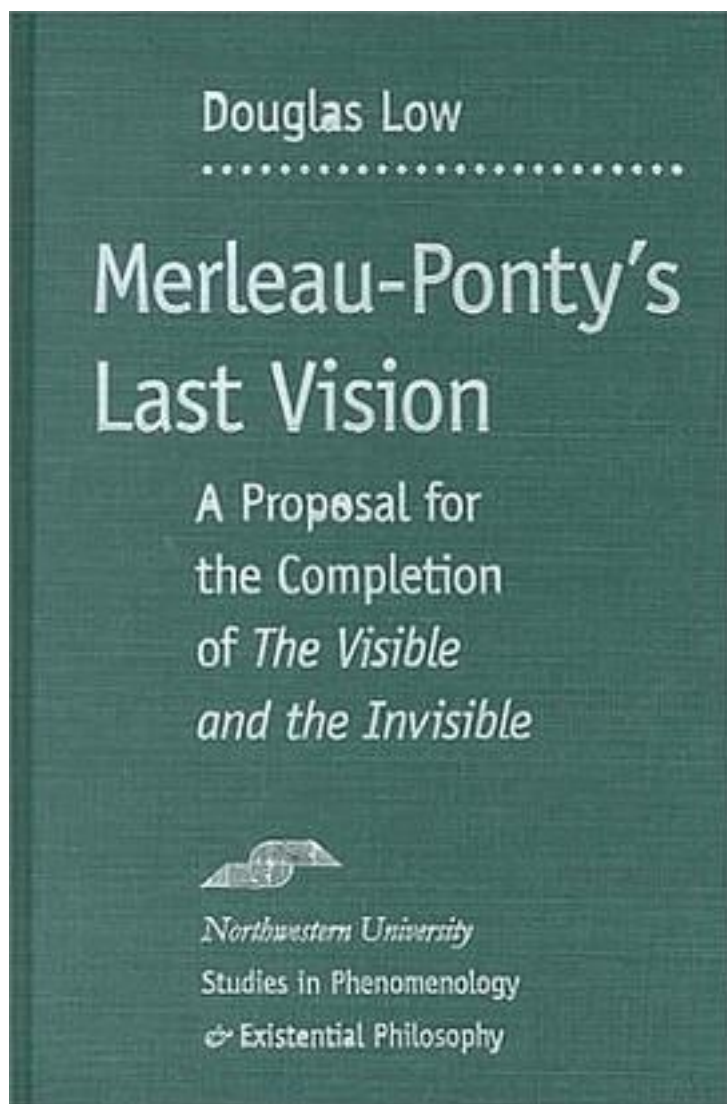


# Merleau-Ponty's Last Vision



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Few writers' unfinished works are considered to be among their most important, but such is the case with Maurice Merleau-Ponty's "The Visible and the Invisible". What exists of it is a mere beginning, published posthumously, yet it is considered to have opened the path from modernism to postmodernism in philosophy. Merleau-Ponty is among the best of the "first generation" of French phenomenologists. His untimely death in 1961 left "The Visible and the Invisible" in a fragmentary state that exacerbates the text's difficulty and complexity. Low's insight is that material from some of Merleau-Ponty's lecture courses -- specifically, essays from 1952 onward, including his published lecture summaries from the Collège de France -- can provide the basis for completion. Working from this material and an outline of the book left by Merleau-Ponty, Low has written an account of how the book would have looked had Merleau-Ponty lived to complete it. Low shows a thorough mastery of the material and clarifies many difficult issues. Rather than presenting an argument, he presents an integration and extrapolation that go far beyond mere summary of the material: this distinguished scholar ends up providing a commentary on a work that was never finished, on various texts that were never published together, and on some that were never published at all. In the book's preface, Low writes: "I am fully aware that every exposition is an interpretation, and I believe that Merleau-Ponty was surely aware of this as well. . . . While I do not claim to here offer the interpretation, which would indeed be impossible, this work does try to confront and analyze these later texts on their own terms, in their proper context, and in their entirety."

作者介绍:

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