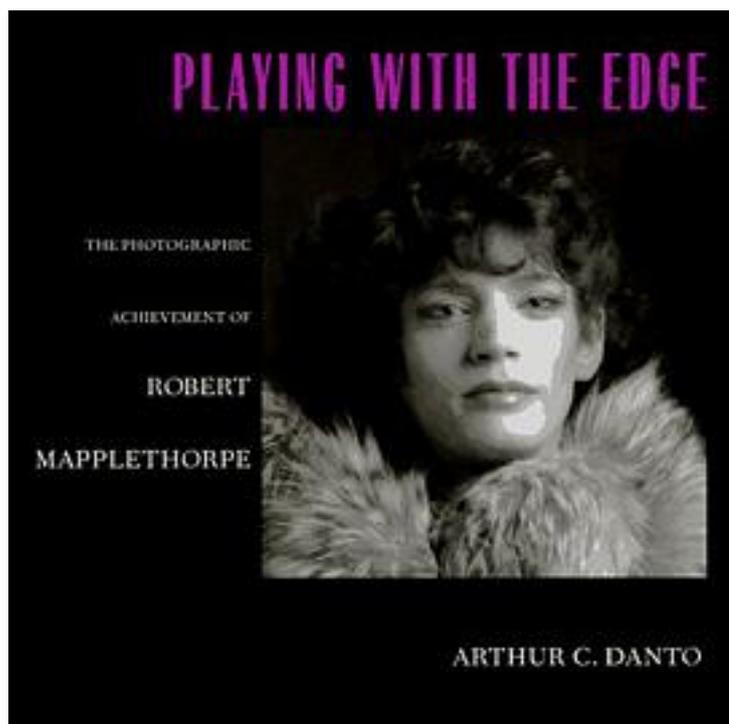


# Playing with the Edge



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著者:Arthur C. Danto

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Arthur Danto's assessment of the achievement of Robert Mapplethorpe is a lucid and graceful introduction to a controversial artist by the most distinguished philosophical critic of the arts in our time. While fully addressing the most public dimensions of Mapplethorpe's career—the branding of his work as pornography and the legal and censorship issues that surround the exhibition of his photographs—Danto's essay breaks with common responses by offering a fascinating and deeply sympathetic account of Mapplethorpe's aesthetics.

In *Playing with the Edge*, Arthur Danto returns the discussion of Mapplethorpe to a

consideration of his artistic legacy. He refuses to retreat from the sexual content of Mapplethorpe's images, claiming that the content and the artistic character of the photographs simultaneously invite and deflect the charges of pornography and together define the importance of Mapplethorpe's work. Danto discerns the images' uniqueness in the relation of trust between the photographer and his subjects.

Through a fascinating exploration of the relation of Mapplethorpe's images to those of other artists (Titian, Sherman, Winogrand, Cartier-Bresson, Golub) Danto presents a compelling argument for Mapplethorpe's enduring position in the history of art, no less than the history of our times.

FROM THE BOOK:"There is a tension at the heart of Robert Mapplethorpe's art, verging on paradox, between its most distinctive content and its most distinctive mode of presentation. The content of the work is often sufficiently erotic to be considered pornographic, even by the artist, while the aesthetic of its presentation is chastely classic—it is Dionysiac and Apollonian at once. The content cannot have been a serious possibility for a major artist at any previous moment in history. It is particular to America in the 1970s, a decade Mapplethorpe exemplifies in terms of his values, his sensibilities, and his attitudes."

作者介绍:

Arthur Danto is Johnsonian Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at Columbia University and art critic for The Nation. He is the author of more than 15 books, including Encounters and Reflections, 1990 winner of the National Book Critics Circle Prize for Criticism.

目录: From the Inside Flap

"Calmly reasoned and beautifully measured, Danto's essay is a paradigm of how serious art criticism ought to proceed should it wish to bring us to see the taste, the delicacy, the complexity and the moral uncertainty of an art object such as Mapplethorpe's."—Daniel Herwitz, California State University, Los Angeles

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评论

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## 书评

From Publishers Weekly The erotically candid photographs of Robert Mapplethorpe, who died of AIDS in 1989, became the focus for the controversy over federal funding of the arts. Danto, professor emeritus of philosophy at Columbia and an art critic for the N...

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