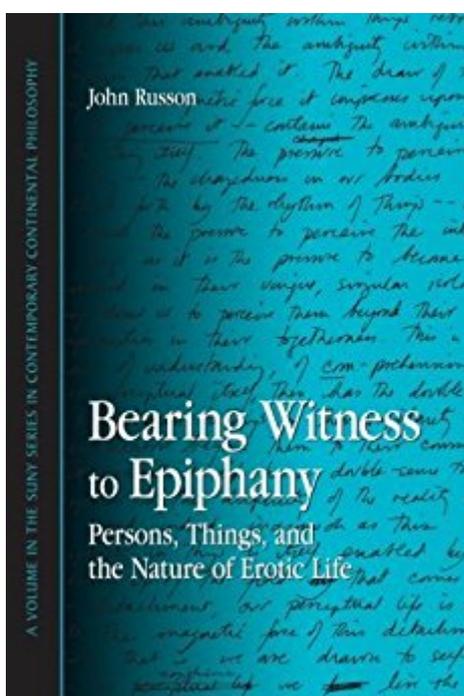


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Bearing Witness To Epiphany: Persons, Things, And The Nature Of Erotic Life (SUNY Series In Contemporary Continental Philosophy)



Synopsis

Makes the novel argument that erotic life is the real sphere of human freedom. In this probing sequel to the popular and award-winning *Human Experience*, John Russon asks, "What is it to be a person?" The answer: the key to our humanity lies in our sexuality, where we experience the freedom to shape identities creatively in cooperation with another. With grace and philosophical rigor, Russon shows that an exploration of sexuality not only illuminates the psychological dimensions of our interpersonal lives but also provides the basis for a new approach to ethics and politics. Responsibilities toward others, he contends, develop alongside our personal growth. *Bearing Witness to Epiphany* brings to light the essential relationship between ethical and political bonds and the development of our powers of expression, leading to a substantial study of the nature and role of art in human life. "A broadly stroked, philosophically unconventional, Heidegger-inspired, phenomenological descriptive-interpretative story of 'all there is' in the world of lived (rather than ideal/abstract/logical existence) relationships involving one's everyday experiential participation in metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, art, and psychology."

CHOICE "Bearing Witness to Epiphany is another beautifully written book by John Russon, a companion to his excellent *Human Experience*. While continental philosophy has relentlessly deconstructed the classical form of the philosophy book, Russon has revived this form in a most compelling way. Russon's writing is so lucid, that the book seems to read itself. More importantly, like *Human Experience*, *Bearing Witness to Epiphany* is the expression of profound thinking. This book should make it clear to everyone that John Russon is one of the few original voices working in continental philosophy today." Leonard Lawlor, coeditor of *The Merleau-Ponty Reader*

John Russon is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Guelph and the author of *Human Experience: Philosophy, Neurosis, and the Elements of Everyday Life*, also published by SUNY Press.

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Customer Reviews

"Bearing Witness to Epiphany" aims to clarify, bear witness to, and urge the recognition of the dynamic character of the experiential world. Russon begins by attending to rhythm and music, and develops out of our capacity to experience rhythm and be moved by music a very useful and vivid articulation of the structural and temporal dimensions of embodied experience. Music is not something "out there" apart from us, a mere "object" to which we can remain indifferent. To hear music as music is to be solicited to dance, to be called upon bodily. In general, Russon argues, experience is never a matter of subjects confronting objects, but of interaction, of reciprocity, of engagement that can perhaps best be described in musical terms. There is always an established and familiar repeating context (rhythm), that is given significance by the various ongoing projects that work with and against that background, defining the character of experience (harmony), and serving as background for the current and developing concerns (melody). The things of our world are not detached realities, existing in their own right as "things in themselves," but appear only in relation to us and on our terms, against the backdrop of our developing character, and in terms of our capacities for interacting with and making sense of them. They appear, for us, only insofar as we are capable of making contact with them, only insofar as we have acquired the bodily capacity for interacting with and interpreting them. At the same time, we cannot be indifferent to things, as they solicit us to act upon and witness to them, since "we" are not anything at all within experience, or for ourselves, except the open potential realized through such interactions, through this interplay and dance.

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