



The Structures of Love: Art and Politics beyond the Transference (Suny Series, Insinuations: Philosophy, Psychoanalysis, Literature)

James Penney

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Reframes the terms of cultural analysis with a fresh take on transference theory in Freud and Lacan and a critical engagement with the philosophy of Alain Badiou. Both Freud and Lacan defined the transference as the ego's last stand—its final desperate attempt to keep the truth of the unconscious at bay. Both also viewed the transference as a social phenomenon. In *The Structures of Love* James Penney argues that transference is the concept with which psychoanalysis thinks through the unconscious demands that circumscribe and can sabotage our creative initiatives in the arts and politics. Penney suggests a method of cultural analysis that enables us to identify the transformative potential of genuine artistic and political acts. He stages a dialogue between Lacan's psychoanalysis and the philosophy of Alain Badiou; includes chapters on Frantz Fanon and Jean Genet, Chantal Akerman and Lucian Freud; and explores the aesthetic, political, and ethical consequences of the transference idea, pushing it into exciting new territory. “A welcome contribution to the literature, this fine study of the psychoanalytic concept of transference explores how art and politics, as acts, can be understood for what they reveal about the workings of the unconscious mind ... Highly recommended.” — CHOICE “This is an original contribution to Lacanian scholarship. The scope of the book is impressive, dealing with postcolonial theory, film theory, art/painting, and critical theory. It introduces to Anglo-American readership, Lacan's texts that have not been translated into English.” — Mikko Tuhkanen, coeditor of *Queer Times*, *Queer Becomings* James Penney is Associate Professor of Cultural Studies at Trent University. He is the author of *The World of Perversion: Psychoanalysis and the Impossible Absolute of Desire*, also published by SUNY Press.

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