



Walter Benjamin and the Corpus of Autobiography (Paperback)

By Gerhard Richter

Wayne State University Press, United States, 2002. Paperback. Condition: New. Revised ed.. Language: English . Brand New Book ****** Print on Demand ******. Although Walter Benjamin (1892-1940) is considered one of the most significant writers and theorists in twentieth-century Western culture, his enigmatic sense of the political has eluded definition. His later work in particular stages a perpetual but little understood confrontation with German fascism. Gerhard Richter shows that Benjamin s engagement with the political cannot be understood in terms of unified concepts and fully deducible theses that can be easily verified or refuted. Rather than explaining his sense of the political, Benjamin enacts it in the movement of his language. Richter traces Benjamin s radical notions of the political through a series of corporeal figures in his often neglected autobiographical writings—the Moscow Diary, the Berlin Chronicle, and the Berlin Childhood around 1900. Each text subtly mobilizes a different trope of anatomy: the body, the ear, and the eye. Richter places these figures into a wide network of references from Benjamin s corpus demonstrating that Benjamin s innovative acts of self-portraiture are inseparable from his analyses of the physiognomy of Weimar culture and German fascism. Benjamin s preoccupation with the...



Reviews

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