

# grayson perry descent of man

**grayson perry descent of man** is a compelling work that explores themes of identity, sexuality, and societal perceptions through the lens of art and personal storytelling. Created by the renowned British artist Grayson Perry, this piece stands as a significant contribution to contemporary art, prompting viewers to reflect on human nature and cultural constructs. In this article, we will delve into the background of Grayson Perry's *Descent of Man*, analyze its themes, discuss its artistic techniques, and explore its impact on audiences and critics alike.

## Understanding Grayson Perry: The Artist Behind *Descent of Man*

### Who Is Grayson Perry?

Grayson Perry is a celebrated British artist known for his ceramics, tapestries, and cross-dressing persona that challenge traditional notions of art and identity. His work often addresses social issues, gender, class, and sexuality, making him a provocative and influential figure in contemporary art.

### Artistic Style and Philosophy

Perry's artistic style blends elements of traditional craftsmanship with modern themes. He frequently utilizes vivid colors, intricate patterns, and symbolic imagery to communicate complex ideas. His approach emphasizes storytelling, often incorporating autobiographical elements to create relatable and thought-provoking pieces.

## Overview of *Descent of Man*

### What Is *Descent of Man*?

*Descent of Man* is a mixed-media installation created by Grayson Perry that examines human evolution, gender roles, and societal expectations. The work is inspired by Charles Darwin's *The Descent of Man*, but Perry reinterprets these themes through a contemporary, often satirical, lens.

### The Concept and Inspiration

Perry's work questions the notion of human progress and the biological basis of gender differences. By referencing Darwin's work, he invites viewers to consider how much of our identity is shaped by evolutionary history versus cultural influence.

# **The Themes Explored in Descent of Man**

## **Human Evolution and Biological Determinism**

Perry explores how evolutionary history influences modern human behavior and societal structures. He challenges deterministic views, emphasizing the fluidity and social construction of gender roles.

## **Gender Identity and Sexuality**

A central theme of *Descent of Man* is the fluidity of gender and sexuality. Perry uses provocative imagery and symbolism to question binary notions and advocate for a more inclusive understanding of human identity.

## **Societal Expectations and Cultural Norms**

The work critiques societal norms that enforce gender stereotypes, highlighting how these expectations limit individual expression and perpetuate inequality.

## **Autobiographical Elements**

Perry incorporates personal narratives, reflecting his own experiences with gender and identity, which adds depth and authenticity to the artwork.

## **Artistic Techniques and Materials**

### **Materials Used**

*Descent of Man* employs a variety of materials, including:

- Ceramics
- Textiles
- Mixed media collage
- Paint and digital elements

## Visual Style and Composition

Perry's signature style features intricate patterns, bold colors, and symbolic motifs. The composition often juxtaposes traditional craftsmanship with contemporary imagery, creating a dialogue between the past and present.

## Symbolism and Iconography

The work is rich with symbols representing evolution, gender, and societal roles, such as:

- Apes and humans to denote evolutionary links
- Gendered icons and motifs
- Historical references and cultural symbols

## Reception and Critical Analysis

### Public and Critical Response

Descent of Man has been widely praised for its boldness and thought-provoking content. Critics highlight Perry's skillful blending of humor, critique, and artistry to challenge viewers' perceptions.

### Controversies and Debates

Some viewers and critics have debated the provocative nature of the work, arguing that it confronts sensitive issues around gender and sexuality. Perry's use of satire has sparked discussions about the boundaries of artistic expression.

### Impact on Contemporary Art

The installation has contributed to ongoing conversations about identity politics and the role of art as activism. It exemplifies how contemporary artists can utilize diverse media to address complex social issues.

## Legacy and Influence

## **Inspiration for Future Works**

Descent of Man continues to inspire artists and activists to explore themes of human evolution, gender, and societal norms through innovative mediums.

## **Educational and Cultural Significance**

The work is used in academic settings to discuss topics related to gender studies, anthropology, and art history, emphasizing its multifaceted importance.

## **Exhibitions and Public Displays**

Since its creation, Descent of Man has been exhibited in major galleries and museums worldwide, reaching diverse audiences and fostering dialogue on critical social issues.

## **Where to Experience Descent of Man**

While original installations may be part of traveling exhibitions, reproductions and digital versions are often available online and in art collections. Visiting these displays can offer a deeper understanding of Perry's intentions and artistic techniques.

## **Conclusion**

Grayson Perry's Descent of Man is more than just an artwork; it is a provocative commentary on human evolution, gender, and societal expectations. Perry's masterful use of mixed media, symbolism, and autobiographical storytelling invites viewers to reflect on their own identities and societal roles. As a significant piece in contemporary art, it continues to inspire dialogue, challenge stereotypes, and push the boundaries of artistic expression. Whether viewed as an artistic masterpiece or a social critique, Descent of Man remains a powerful testament to Perry's vision and the enduring relevance of exploring human nature through art.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the main theme of Grayson Perry's 'Descent of Man'?**

The main theme of 'Descent of Man' is exploring human evolution, gender identity, and societal roles through a humorous and provocative lens.

### **How does Grayson Perry interpret gender in 'Descent of**

## **Man'?**

Perry examines gender as a social construct, challenging traditional stereotypes and highlighting the fluidity and diversity of gender identities.

## **What artistic techniques does Grayson Perry use in 'Descent of Man'?**

Perry employs a mix of ceramics, tapestry, and mixed-media techniques, combining traditional craft with contemporary commentary.

## **Is 'Descent of Man' part of a series or a standalone work?**

'Descent of Man' is a singular, comprehensive work that reflects Perry's ongoing interest in human history, gender, and culture.

## **How does 'Descent of Man' relate to Charles Darwin's theories?**

The title references Darwin's 'The Descent of Man,' and Perry's work thematically explores human evolution and our biological and cultural development.

## **What has been the public and critical reception of 'Descent of Man'?**

The work has received praise for its insightful commentary and craftsmanship, though some critics have found its provocative approach controversial.

## **Are there specific cultural or historical references in 'Descent of Man'?**

Yes, Perry incorporates references to various historical periods, mythologies, and cultural symbols to explore human history and evolution.

## **How does 'Descent of Man' reflect Grayson Perry's broader artistic style?**

It exemplifies Perry's signature blend of craftsmanship, satire, and social commentary, often using accessible materials to provoke thought.

## **Can 'Descent of Man' be considered a feminist work?**

Yes, it challenges traditional gender roles and promotes a more inclusive understanding of gender identity, aligning with feminist perspectives.

# Where can I view or learn more about 'Descent of Man'?

You can view the work in galleries featuring Grayson Perry's exhibitions or explore detailed analyses and images through art publications and Perry's official website.

## Additional Resources

Grayson Perry: Descent of Man — A Deep Dive into Contemporary Masculinity and Identity

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### Introduction

In the landscape of contemporary art and social commentary, few works have sparked as much conversation and reflection as Grayson Perry's "Descent of Man." As a renowned British artist, Perry has long been celebrated for his provocative, insightful, and often humorous explorations of societal norms, identity, and culture. "Descent of Man," a striking tapestry woven from intricate embroidery and layered with symbolism, exemplifies Perry's mastery in addressing complex themes around masculinity, evolution, and human nature. This review aims to unpack the multifaceted dimensions of Perry's work, revealing its artistic, philosophical, and cultural significance.

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### Background and Context of "Descent of Man"

#### The Origin and Concept

"Descent of Man" was commissioned for the Manchester Art Gallery in 2014, initially conceived as a response to the gallery's collection and the broader discourse on gender roles. Perry envisioned this tapestry as a modern reinterpretation of the classical "Descent from the Cross" motif, infused with contemporary themes pertaining to masculinity's evolution and societal expectations.

The title itself alludes to Darwin's seminal work, *The Descent of Man*, which discusses human evolution and the biological underpinnings of our species. Perry cleverly intertwines this scientific reference with cultural commentary, prompting viewers to reconsider notions of masculinity from both evolutionary and social perspectives.

#### Artistic Medium and Technique

Unlike traditional tapestry or embroidery, Perry's "Descent of Man" is a large-scale, meticulously crafted textile artwork measuring approximately 4 meters in length. It features:

- Embroidery and appliqué: Each figure and scene is rendered with detailed needlework, combining traditional craftsmanship with contemporary imagery.
- Mixed media elements: Incorporation of fabric, thread, and sometimes even metallic accents to enhance depth and symbolism.

- Layered storytelling: The tapestry contains numerous scenes and figures, inviting viewers to explore multiple narrative layers.

This labor-intensive technique underscores Perry's dedication to craftsmanship, while also serving as a metaphor for the complexity and intricacies of human identity.

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## Visual Composition and Iconography

### Central Themes and Imagery

"Descent of Man" is replete with symbolism, allegories, and references that challenge viewers to interpret its layered meanings. Some key visual elements include:

- Evolutionary motifs: Figures that resemble early hominids, modern humans, and mythic beings, illustrating human evolution's continuum.
- Masculine archetypes: Depictions of warriors, workers, philosophers, and athletes, representing different facets of masculinity.
- Cultural references: Portraits of historical figures, contemporary icons, and fictional characters, blending past and present.
- Mythical and religious symbols: Elements reminiscent of biblical stories, mythologies, and spiritual iconography, suggesting the spiritual and moral dimensions of masculinity.

### The Figures: A Closer Look

The tapestry is populated with numerous figures, each conveying specific messages:

- The Ancestors: Early hominids and primitive figures symbolize our biological origins and the evolutionary journey.
- Modern Men: Depictions of men engaged in various activities—working, fighting, nurturing—highlighting the diverse roles men occupy today.
- Famous Personalities: Portraits or references to figures like Charles Darwin, Sigmund Freud, and contemporary icons, linking scientific, psychoanalytic, and cultural narratives.
- Mythic/Moral Figures: Archetypes such as the hero or the villain, questioning moral standards and societal expectations.

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## Themes and Interpretations

### 1. Evolution and Humanity

At its core, Perry's "Descent of Man" confronts the idea of human evolution—not merely as a biological process but as a cultural and psychological journey. The tapestry explores questions like:

- How have gender roles evolved over millennia?
- What biological traits are inherited, and how are they expressed socially?
- Is masculinity an innate trait or a cultural construct?

By intertwining evolutionary motifs with contemporary imagery, Perry invites reflection on whether modern notions of masculinity are rooted in our biological past or societal shaping.

## 2. Masculinity and Identity

One of the work's central concerns is the fluidity and diversity of masculinity. Perry challenges monolithic stereotypes by illustrating:

- Traditional masculinity (strength, stoicism, dominance)
- Alternative expressions (empathy, nurturing, vulnerability)
- The impact of societal pressures on men's mental health and behavior

This thematic exploration resonates deeply in current debates around gender identity, mental health, and gender equality.

## 3. Power, Violence, and Vulnerability

Perry does not shy away from depicting the darker aspects associated with masculinity:

- Scenes of violence, war, and aggression highlight toxic masculinity's destructive potential.
- Conversely, symbols of vulnerability, tenderness, and emotional expression emphasize a more holistic view of manhood.
- The juxtaposition prompts viewers to consider how societal expectations foster harmful behaviors but also how embracing vulnerability can foster resilience.

## 4. Cultural and Historical Reflections

The tapestry's references to history, myth, and popular culture serve as a critique and celebration of human achievements and follies. Perry examines:

- How cultural narratives shape perceptions of masculinity
- The role of religion and morality in defining masculine virtues
- The influence of media and popular culture in constructing gender ideals

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## Artistic Significance and Impact

### Craftsmanship and Innovation

Perry's technical mastery is evident in the intricate embroidery and thoughtful composition. The labor-intensive process elevates the work beyond mere illustration, transforming it into a tactile meditation on human complexity.

### Cultural and Social Commentary

"Descent of Man" functions as a mirror held up to society, encouraging dialogue about gender roles, identity, and evolution. Its visual richness and layered symbolism invite multiple interpretations, making it a versatile piece for discussion across academic,

artistic, and social spheres.

## Engagement and Reception

The work has received a mix of praise and critique:

- Positive reception: Celebrated for its honesty, craftsmanship, and relevance. Many view it as a compelling call to re-examine masculinity.
- Criticism: Some argue that the densely packed imagery can be overwhelming or that its messages are ambiguous, requiring viewers to engage deeply to uncover meaning.

Regardless of perspective, the tapestry has undeniably ignited conversations about gender, history, and human nature.

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## Broader Cultural and Artistic Context

### Perry's Artistic Philosophy

Grayson Perry's oeuvre often blurs boundaries between fine art, craft, and social critique. "Descent of Man" exemplifies this approach, combining traditional textile techniques with contemporary themes.

### Connection to Contemporary Discourse

In a broader societal context, the work aligns with movements questioning gender stereotypes, advocating for mental health awareness, and promoting inclusivity. It encourages viewers to think critically about the narratives shaping masculinity and to consider alternative, healthier models.

### Influence and Legacy

"Descent of Man" continues Perry's tradition of creating provocative, meaningful art that challenges conventions. Its impact extends beyond galleries, serving as an educational tool and a catalyst for societal reflection.

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## Conclusion

Grayson Perry's "Descent of Man" stands as a monumental achievement in contemporary art, fusing craftsmanship with incisive social commentary. Through its intricate embroidery, layered symbolism, and provocative themes, it urges viewers to reconsider the evolution, diversity, and future of masculinity. It embodies Perry's unique ability to blend humor, critique, and artistry, making it an essential piece for anyone interested in understanding the complex tapestry of human identity. As society continues to evolve, "Descent of Man" remains a poignant reminder of the ongoing dialogue about who we are and who we aspire to be.

## Grayson Perry Descent Of Man

**grayson perry descent of man: The Descent of Man** Grayson Perry, 2017-05-30 What does it mean to be male in the 21st Century? Award-winning artist Grayson Perry explores what masculinity is: from sex to power, from fashion to career prospects, and what it could become—with illustrations throughout. In this witty and necessary new book, artist Grayson Perry trains his keen eye on the world of men to ask, what sort of man would make the world a better place? What would happen if we rethought the macho, outdated version of manhood, and embraced a different ideal? In the current atmosphere of bullying, intolerance and misogyny, demonstrated in the recent Trump versus Clinton presidential campaign, *The Descent of Man* is a timely and essential addition to current conversations around gender. Apart from gaining vast new wardrobe options, the real benefit might be that a newly fitted masculinity will allow men to have better relationships—and that's happiness, right? Grayson Perry admits he's not immune from the stereotypes himself—yet his thoughts on everything from power to physical appearance, from emotions to a brand new Manifesto for Men, are shot through with honesty, tenderness, and the belief that, for everyone to benefit, updating masculinity has to be something men decide to do themselves. They have nothing to lose but their hang-ups.

**grayson perry descent of man: Masculinities in the Field** Brooke A. Porter, Heike A. Schänzel, Joseph M. Cheer, 2021-02-04 This volume is an essential reference for designing, analysing and reflecting on field research. It advances the literature on gender by taking a specific focus on masculinities. The book is organised into four sections: hegemonic and heteronormative masculinities, performing heteronormative masculinities, situated masculinities and paternal masculinities. The chapters explore the question of what it means to be a 'man' and definitions of masculinities. These reflexive accounts of gendered field experiences further the call for gender positionality in research and will aid tourism researchers and other transdisciplinary scholars. It is a useful tool for supervisors, ethics committee members and researchers (male and female).

**grayson perry descent of man: Criminal Law and the Man Problem** Ngaire Naffine, 2019-04-04 Men have always dominated the most basic precepts of the criminal legal world - its norms, its priorities and its character. Men have been the regulators and the regulated: the main subjects and objects of criminal law and by far the more dangerous sex. And yet men, as men, are still hardly talked about as the determining force within criminal law or in its exegesis. This book brings men into sharp focus, as the pervasively powerful interest group, whose wants and preoccupations have shaped the discipline. This constitutes the 'man problem' of criminal law. This new analysis probes the unacknowledged thinking of generations of influential legal men, which includes the psychological and legal techniques that have obscured the operation of bias, even to the legal experts themselves. It explains how men's interests have influenced the most cherished legal norms, especially the rules of human contact, which were designed to protect men from other men, while specifically securing lawful sexual access to at least one woman. The aim is to test the discipline's broadest commitments to civility, and its trajectory towards the final resolution, when men and women were declared to be equal and equivalent legal persons. In the process it exposes the morally and intellectually limiting consequences of male power.

**grayson perry descent of man: A Small Man's England** Tommy Sissons, 2021-01-12 An exploration of white working-class English men, showing how and why some have been captured by the far-right and what the left can do about it. IS THE WHITE WORKING CLASS RIGHT-WING? AND IS IT RIGHT-WING TO EVEN SPEAK OF A WHITE WORKING CLASS? In recent decades, as class consciousness has been suppressed and eroded, many white working-class men have turned their backs on the left in favour of the right and the far-right. Why is this? *A Small Man's England* is a polemic aimed at the structures of hierarchy that ceaselessly maintain power across Britain and elsewhere, and a call for multicultural solidarity amongst the working class. In analysing the roles that class, race, masculinity and nationality play in neoliberal Britain, Sissons offers a solution to the

indoctrination of white working-class English men by the right and the far-right, and explores how working-class people can collectively shape a Common England -- a country based on equality and justice for all.

**grayson perry descent of man:** The American Father Onscreen Toby Reynolds, 2021-12-21

The American father is constantly depicted by contemporary Hollywood as being under pressure and forever struggling, but why? By utilising an analytical psychological approach, this fascinating book reveals the depths, complexities and nuances of the depictions of the American father and his struggles with contemporary contextual challenges and offers a fresh and intellectually exciting set of perspectives and interpretations of this key masculine figure and his effect on cinematic masculinities. Using a post-Jungian methodology and close textual analysis, the book seeks to explore the presence and impact of the American filmic father, and the effect his Shadow has on himself, his children and US society. It does this by examining the concept of 'father hunger', a term popularised by the mytho-poetic men's movement that holds fathers to be an essential link to the masculine continuum and masculinity in general. Analysing the role that Hollywood plays in depicting fathers and their relationships with their children and American society, *The American Father Onscreen* concludes that Hollywood presents the American paternal as crucial to the construction of US society and, consequently, American cultural myths, such as the American Dream. Providing an alternative perspective into the fascinating, complex, and under-researched figure of the American father, this book will be of great interest to academics and students of film, gender studies, American studies, and post-Jungian psychology.

**grayson perry descent of man:** *A Brief Guide to Smart Thinking* James M. Russell, 2020-04-02

Each book is summarised to convey a brief idea of what each one has to offer the interested reader, while a 'Speed Read' for each book delivers a quick sense of what each book is like to read and a highly compressed summary of the main points of the book in question. The titles covered include thought-provoking classics on psychology, mindfulness, rationality, the brain, mathematical and economic thought and practical philosophy. The selection includes books about self-improvement as well as historically interesting accounts of how the mind works. Titles included go back as far as the Epictetus classic *The Enchiridion* and Bertrand Russell's charming *The ABC of Relativity*, and proceed through classics such as Edward de Bono's *Lateral Thinking* and into the digital era with titles such as *The Shallows* and *Big Data*. The books are arranged chronologically, which draws attention to some of the interesting juxtapositions and connections between them. Some of the titles included are: *Freakonomics*, by Steven D. Levitt; *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking*, by Malcolm Gladwell; *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*, by Yuval Noah Harari; *The Organized Mind: Thinking Straight in the Age of Information Overload*, by Daniel J. Levitin; *The Descent of Man*, by Grayson Perry; *How the Mind Works*, by Steven Pinker; *Black Box Thinking: Why Some People Never Learn from Their Mistakes - But Some Do*, by Matthew Syed; *We Should All Be Feminists*, by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie; *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*, by Jared Diamond; *The Black Swan: The Impact of the Highly Improbable*, by Nassim Nicholas Taleb; *Man's Search for Meaning*, by Viktor E. Frankl; *The News: A User's Manual*, by Alain de Botton; *Mindware: Tools for Smart Thinking*, by Richard E. Nisbett; *The ABC of Relativity*, by Bertrand Russell; *The Psychopath Test*, by Jon Ronson; *The Path: What Chinese Philosophers Can Teach Us About the Good Life*, by Michael Puett; *A Brief History of Time*, by Stephen Hawking; *Messy: The Power of Disorder to Transform Our Lives*, by Tim Harford; *Big Data: A Revolution That Will Transform How We Live, Work, and Think*, by Viktor Mayer-Schönberger; *Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game*, by Michael Lewis; *The Survivors Club: The Secrets and Science That Could Save Your Life*, by Ben Sherwood; *Black Box Thinking*, by Matthew Syed; *Chaos: Making a New Science*, by James Gleick; *A Short History of Nearly Everything*, by Bill Bryson; *The Shallows: What the Internet Is Doing to Our Brains*, by Nicholas Carr; *Making Ideas Happen: Overcoming the Obstacles Between Vision and Reality*, by Scott Belsky; *The Enchiridion*, by Epictetus; *Gödel, Escher, Bach*, by Douglas R. Hofstadter; *What I Talk About When I Talk About Running*, by Haruki Murakami; and *Lateral Thinking*, by Edward de Bono.

**grayson perry descent of man: Minor Keys** Samantha Parsley, 2025-10-09 What's it like to work in the male-dominated world of electronic music? How do women and gender-expansive music producers and DJs thrive despite clubland's so-called 'bro culture'? This book combines the author's personal journey into DJing and music production with insights from a six year immersive research project and interviews with 63 global artists to explore the challenges women and gender-expansive artists face in the industry. The book tackles common myths around gender, technology and cultural production head on, introducing the concept of 'ameliorative work' to recognise the continual and considerable additional work that minoritized genders do in order to succeed. Engaging, accessible and thought-provoking, this book is a must-read for anyone interested in electronic music, the sociology of the contemporary club scene or diversity issues for workers in the creative industries.

**grayson perry descent of man: Confounding the Mighty** Luke Larnier, 2023-08-28 It is long past time for the church to talk seriously about social class. Bringing together the stories of eight contemporary Christian ministers and theologians from working-class backgrounds, and putting their own life experiences into conversation with theological reflection, *Confounding the Mighty* explores what role class plays in the life of Churches, education establishments and social justice movements in 21st Century Britain and beyond. Written from a diverse variety of social locations, chapters explore how class relates to faith, Church, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, education, leadership, work and wider social justice issues. While lamenting injustice and personal experiences of oppression, this book suggests radical changes in how Christians, churches and theologians relate to class issues, pointing towards renewed structures and practices to bring class justice in churches and wider society. Recognising that class is a thorny issue, the book seeks to bring a progressive theological perspective on class which pays close attention to related issues and promotes liberation for all.

**grayson perry descent of man: The Golden Thread** David Clare, Fiona McDonagh, Justine Nakase, 2021 This two-volume edited collection covers three hundred years of Irish women's playwriting with forty-two essays written by leading and emerging Irish theatre scholars and practitioners. Volume One looks at the period from 1716 to 1992, exploring such varied themes as the impact of space and place on identity, women's strategic use of genre, and theatrical responses to shifts in Irish politics and culture.

**grayson perry descent of man: Fantasy, Neoliberalism and Precariousness** Jérémy Vachet, 2022-03-30 Contributing to debates within cultural studies, sociology and the political economy of communication about working lives in the cultural and creative industries, Vachet answers to-date unexplored questions around the psychosocial impact of precariousness and other problematic features of work in the cultural industries.

**grayson perry descent of man: The Cambridge Companion to British Fiction: 1980-2018** Peter Boxall, 2019-06-27 Gives a comprehensive critical picture of the development of British fiction from the election of Thatcher to the present.

**grayson perry descent of man: Brandsplaining** Jane Cunningham, Philippa Roberts, 2021-02-18 'It's high time we expose and remedy the pseudo-feminist marketing malarkey holding women back under the guise of empowerment' Amanda Montell, author of *Wordslut* \_\_\_\_\_ Brands profit by telling women who they are and how to be. Now they've discovered feminism and are hell bent on selling 'fempowerment' back to us. But behind the go-girl slogans and the viral hash-tags has anything really changed? In *Brandsplaining*, Jane Cunningham and Philippa Roberts expose the monumental gap that exists between the women that appear in the media around us and the women we really are. Their research reveals how our experiences, wants and needs - in all forms - are ignored and misrepresented by an industry that fails to understand us. They propose a radical solution to resolve this once and for all: an innovative framework for marketing that is fresh, exciting, and - at last - sexism-free. \_\_\_\_\_ 'If you think we've moved on from 'Good Girl' to 'Go Girl', think again!' Professor Gina Rippon, author of *The Gendered Brain* 'An outrageously important book. Erudite, funny, and deeply engaging -- with no condescension or bullshit' Dr Aarathi Prasad, author of *Like A Virgin* 'This book has the power to change the way we see the world' Sophie

Devonshire, CEO, The Marketing Society and author of Superfast

**grayson perry descent of man: Women, Men, and the Whole Damn Thing** David Leser, 2021-01-05 A brilliant, impassioned, unflinching account of the firestorm of #MeToo, how we got there, and where we must now go. In *Women, Men, and the Whole Damn Thing*, author David Leser presents an essential and incisive investigation, unearthing the roots of misogyny, its inextricable links to the patriarchy, and how history brought us to the #MeToo movement and the wave of incandescent female rage that is sweeping the world. Crucially, he also interrogates his own psyche, privilege, and culpability as he bears witness to the “collective wound of the world” and asks how we can move towards healing and profound and permanent change. This book calls on men (yes, all men) to be accountable for their contribution to the continuing oppression of women by the patriarchal structures that have dominated our culture historically and through to the present. He argues that misogyny and female oppression is the greatest moral issue of our times and we are all responsible for dismantling the structures which cause such oppression. This book is his journey into how to grapple with both the personal and collective aftermath of #MeToo and the new future. Including interviews with Tina Brown, Zainab Salbi, Marlene Schiappa, and Helen Garner, among other globally recognized names, *Women, Men, and the Whole Damn Thing* is a bold, honest, and self-searching global overview of the cultural moment of misogyny that we exist in and, perhaps, a way to move forward.

**grayson perry descent of man: Yet Here I Am** Deborah Binner, 2018-11-12 Deborah Binner's world was shattered when her 15 year-old daughter Chloe was diagnosed with Ewing's sarcoma, a rare bone cancer. Despite aggressive treatment, Chloe died three years later, two weeks after her 18th birthday. Still reeling from grief, Deborah was plunged deeper into despair when just 18 months later, her beloved husband Simon learned he had motor neurone disease. What's more, Simon knew from the outset he had no intention of allowing the disease to play out and opted instead for an assisted death. Despite her personal feelings, Deborah had no choice but to accompany him to a Swiss suicide clinic to say their goodbyes. The last six months of Simon's life was filmed for a BBC documentary - *How to Die: Simon's Choice* which was nominated for a BAFTA. In *Yet Here I Am*, Deborah describes with painful honesty, how she emerged from crushing sadness and pain to forge a new life for herself and even - eventually - find a new form of happiness. This is a remarkable story of human strength, resilience and hope.

**grayson perry descent of man: The Dharma in DNA** Dee Denver, 2022 In *The Dharma in DNA*, Dee Denver offers a scientific approach to spirituality that focuses on explaining the natural links between Buddhism and biology.

**grayson perry descent of man: Language and Mediated Masculinities** Robert Lawson, 2023 From television shows to the manosphere, and from alt-right communities to fatherhood forums, debates about masculinity have come to dominate the media landscape. What does it mean to be a man in contemporary society? How is masculinity constituted in different media spaces? This growing cultural tension around masculinities has been discussed and analyzed both for general audiences and in burgeoning academic scholarship. What has been typically overlooked, however, is the role that language plays in these mediated performances of masculinity. In *Language and Mediated Masculinities*, Robert Lawson draws on data from newspapers, social media sites, television programs, and online forums to explore language and masculinities across a range of media contexts. The book offers a critical evaluation of the intersection between language, masculinities, and identities in contemporary society and addresses three key questions: How are masculinities constructed, in both public and private spheres, through linguistic and discursive strategies? How does language about masculinity and men affect (and recreate) gender ideologies in different social, political, and historical contexts? What might the language of men tell us about the state of contemporary gender relations in the twenty-first century? Lawson furthers our understanding of how language is implicated in (re)creating gender ideologies and how it shapes contemporary gender relations. Against a cultural backdrop of rising neoliberalism, ethnic nationalism, online radicalization, networked misogyny, and fractious gender relations, this book is

an important contribution to charting how language is used to monitor, evaluate, and police masculinities in online and offline spaces.

**grayson perry descent of man: A Feminist Companion to Social Psychology** Madeleine Pownall, Wendy Stainton Rogers, 2021-11-19 Winner of the 2023 BPS Book Award in the Textbook Category "Extremely lively and super-smart, this Feminist Companion is indeed the friend you want to sit beside in every social psychology class." Alexandra Rutherford, Professor, Historical, Theoretical and Critical Studies of Psychology, York University, Canada "Madeleine Pownall and Wendy Stainton Rogers' book pings with the vibrancy and creativity of feminist critique. With this companion, they have made feminist inspiration, analysis, and activism easily accessible to everyone studying social psychology!" Virginia Braun, Professor of Psychology, The University of Auckland, New Zealand "The Feminist Companion was written for undergraduate readers, but it holds much wisdom for us all." Jeanne Marecek, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, USA The Feminist Companion series includes books which act as your friends and mentors in book form, supporting you in your studies, especially when things get tough. This companion offers a feminist, critical, better-informed understanding of social psychology; what it knows, what it can deliver – and what it can't. Ultimately, it will help you gain a deeper understanding of the data, analytic tools and theoretical frameworks that inform Social Psychology, as well as empowering you to develop the capacity and authority to challenge assumptions and become a critical and engaged social psychologist. Key features include: •Five Reasons Why You Need a Feminist Companion – a helpful summary of what readers can expect to gain from this book •Activity boxes, suggesting ways you can put the theory you are learning in to practice •See and Hear for Yourself boxes, signposting readers to where they can find real-world examples of the concepts covered •Summary sections that articulate the main points of each chapter and provide a useful revision aid •A glossary of key terms This book maps to the British Psychological Society (BPS) curriculum on social psychology as well as the Quality Assessment Agency's (QAA) Subject Benchmark Statement for Psychology. Madeleine Pownall is a lecturer in Social Psychology, Research Methods, and Advanced Social Psychology at the University of Leeds, UK. She is Chair of the Psychology Postgraduate Affairs Group (PsyPAG) and an Associate Editor at The Psychologist. Wendy Stainton Rogers is Emeritus Professor at The Open University, UK, and a member of the Open University Press Editorial Advisory Board. Across her career she has written ten bestselling books, the majority of which are for Psychology students. She is renowned for her clear-sighted and accessible writing style, as well as for her innovative work in Critical Psychology.

**grayson perry descent of man: Men and masculinities in modern Britain** Matt Houlbrook, Katie Jones, Ben Mechen, 2024-01-16 Men and masculinities provides an engaging, accessible and provocative introduction to histories of masculinity for all readers interested in contemporary gender politics. The book offers a critical overview of ongoing historiographical debates and the historical making of men's lives and identities and ideas of masculinity between the 1890s and the present day. In setting out a new agenda for the field, it makes an ambitious argument for the importance of writing histories which are present-centred and politically engaged. This means that the book engages head-on with ferocious debates about men's social position and the status of masculinity in contemporary public life. In establishing a critical genealogy for the proliferation of this crisis talk, it sets out new ways of understanding how men's lives and ideas of masculinity have changed over time while patriarchy and male power have persisted.

**grayson perry descent of man: The Identity Myth** David Swift, 2022-02-17 We are in crisis. As a society we have never been less connected. The internet and globalisation fuel ignorance and anger, while the disconnect between people's reality and perceived identities has never been greater. Karl Marx outlined the idea of a material 'base' and politico-cultural 'superstructure'. According to this formula, a material reality - wealth, income, occupation - determined your politics, leisure habits, tastes, and how you made sense of the world. Today, the importance of material deprivation, in terms of threats to life, health and prosperity, are as acute as ever. But the identities apparently generated by these realities are increasingly detached from material circumstances. At

the same time, different identities are needlessly conflated through a process of reeling off a list of -isms and -phobias, and are lumped together, as though these groups all somehow have something in common with one another. This process is not just inappropriate but obscures the specific nature of problems being faced. In *The Identity Myth*, David Swift covers the four different kinds of identity most susceptible to this trend - class, race, sex and age. He considers how the boundaries of identities are policed and how diverse versions of the same identity can be deployed to different ends. Ultimately, it is not that identities are simply more 'complex' than they appear but that there are more important commonalities. In a powerful call to arms, Swift argues that we must unite against these identity myths and embrace our differences to beat inequality.

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