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A groundbreaking new perspective on the human
body in performance

ANATOMY LIVE

Performance and the Operating Theatre

Maaïke Bleeker

Gross anatomy, the study of anatomical structures that can be seen by unassisted vision, has long been a subject of fascination for artists. For most modern viewers, however, the anatomy lesson hardly seems the proper breeding ground for the hybrid workings of art and theory. We forget that, in its early stages, anatomy pursued the highly theatrical spirit of Renaissance science, as painters such as Rembrandt and Da Vinci shared audiences devoted to the workings of the human body.

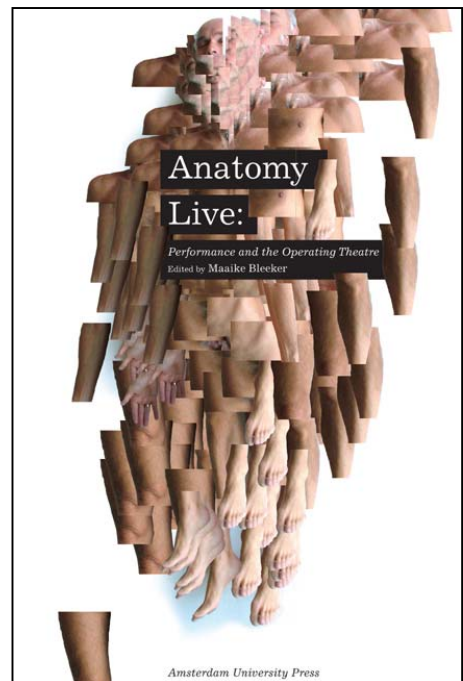
Anatomy Live, a remarkable consideration of new developments on the stage, as well as in contemporary writings of theorists such as Donna Haraway and Brian Massumi, turns our modern notions of the dissecting table on its head—using anatomical theatre as a means of obtaining a fresh perspective on representations of the body, conceptions of subjectivity, and own knowledge about science and the stage.

With contributions from Gianna Bouchard, Pannil Camp, José van Dijck, Rachel Fensham, Susan Foster, Karen Ingham, Anja Klöck, Michal Kobialka, Bojana Kunst, Ian Maxwell, Sally Jane Norman and Maaïke Bleeker, and documentation from exhibitions of Marijs Boulogne, Renée Copraij, Emil Hrvatin, Isabelle Jenniches, Eric Joris/Crew, Stefan Kunzmann, Ivana Müller, Glen Tetley, Mike Tyler and Sasha Waltz.

Maaïke Bleeker is professor of theatre and dance at the Utrecht University.

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