

daniel johnston the story of an artist

Daniel Johnston: The Story of an Artist

daniel johnston the story of an artist is a tale woven with raw emotion, unfiltered creativity, and the bittersweet struggles of mental illness. Johnston was not just a musician; he was a visionary whose art and music have left an indelible mark on indie culture and beyond. His story is one of passion and pain, of dreams pursued despite overwhelming obstacles, and of a unique voice that continues to inspire generations.

The Early Life of Daniel Johnston

Daniel Johnston was born in 1961 in Sacramento, California, but his formative years were spent in West Virginia. From a young age, Johnston showed a deep connection to music and drawing, often retreating into his own imaginative world. His early influences ranged from The Beatles to Bob Dylan, and these shaped the lo-fi, heartfelt style that would become his signature sound.

As a teenager, Johnston began recording songs on a simple tape recorder and drawing cartoons, which became intertwined expressions of his creative spirit. These homemade recordings, filled with sincerity and vulnerability, were far from polished, but they captured something profoundly human and relatable.

Struggles with Mental Health

One cannot discuss daniel johnston the story of an artist without acknowledging the mental health challenges that shadowed much of his life. Diagnosed with bipolar disorder and schizophrenia, Johnston's experiences with mental illness deeply influenced his music and art. His lyrics often reflect his inner battles, his hopes, and his fears, offering listeners an intimate glimpse into his psyche.

Rather than hiding his struggles, Johnston embraced them as part of his narrative. This candidness helped destigmatize mental illness in the music community and gave hope to others facing similar challenges. His life shows how creativity and vulnerability can coexist and even thrive amidst hardship.

The Music That Defined a Generation

Daniel Johnston's music is often described as "outsider art" — raw, unrefined, and deeply authentic. His early cassette tapes, recorded in his bedroom, became legendary among underground music fans. These recordings feature simple melodies, heartfelt lyrics, and a childlike innocence that is incredibly touching.

Notable Albums and Songs

Some of Johnston's most influential works include the albums "Hi, How Are You" and "Yip/Jump Music." Songs like "Walking the Cow," "True Love Will Find You in the End," and "Story of an Artist" resonate with listeners through their sincerity and emotional depth. His lyrics often explore themes of love, loneliness, and hope — universal feelings expressed in a uniquely personal way.

His music transcended conventional genres, influencing countless musicians across indie rock, alternative, and punk scenes. Artists such as Kurt Cobain, Beck, and Wilco have cited Johnston as an inspiration, helping to cement his legacy within modern music history.

The Impact of Lo-Fi Aesthetic

Johnston's lo-fi production wasn't just a necessity due to limited resources; it became a defining characteristic of his sound. This stripped-down approach allowed his emotional honesty to shine through without the gloss of studio polish. The imperfections in his recordings — background noise, off-key notes, and raw vocals — created an intimate listening experience that made fans feel as though they were inside his world.

For aspiring musicians, Johnston's story is a powerful reminder that authenticity often matters more than technical perfection. His work encourages artists to embrace their unique voices and imperfections, fostering creativity in its purest form.

Visual Art: The Other Side of Daniel Johnston

Beyond music, Johnston was a prolific visual artist. His drawings, often featuring quirky characters like the frog "Jeremiah the Innocent," complement his music and offer further insight into his creative mind. His art exhibits a childlike simplicity but carries profound emotional weight, reflecting his struggles and hopes.

The Iconic "Hi, How Are You?" Album Cover

One of Johnston's most recognizable artworks is the cover of his "Hi, How Are You?" album, which features a simple but haunting drawing of a creature known as "Jeremiah the Innocent." This image became an emblem not just for Johnston's music but also for the Austin, Texas music scene where he spent much of his career.

The artwork's accessibility and emotional resonance highlight how Johnston blurred the lines between visual art and music, creating a holistic artistic identity. He showed that creativity can be multifaceted, and that visual storytelling can enhance musical expression.

Daniel Johnston the Story of an Artist in Popular Culture

Johnston's influence extends far beyond his personal recordings. His life and work have been the subject of documentaries, exhibitions, and tribute albums, cementing his status as a cultural icon. The 2005 documentary "The Devil and Daniel Johnston" brought his story to a wider audience, showcasing the highs and lows of his life with honesty and compassion.

Legacy and Influence

Daniel Johnston's legacy is not just about the songs he wrote or the drawings he made, but about the courage to be vulnerable in a world that often demands perfection. His impact on indie music, mental health awareness, and outsider art continues to inspire.

Many contemporary artists draw inspiration from Johnston's fearless creativity and openness. His story encourages us to embrace our flaws and to use art as a means of connection and healing. For fans and newcomers alike, exploring daniel johnston the story of an artist reveals a powerful narrative about the human spirit and the transformative power of creativity.

Insights from Daniel Johnston's Journey

Looking at Johnston's life offers valuable lessons for artists and creatives everywhere:

- **Authenticity Matters:** Johnston's success was rooted in his honest self-expression, proving that true art connects when it's genuine.
- **Embrace Imperfection:** His lo-fi recordings remind us that technical flaws can add character and intimacy.
- **Creativity and Mental Health:** Johnston's story highlights the importance of compassion and support for artists facing mental health challenges.
- **Multidisciplinary Art:** Combining music and visual art can deepen storytelling and emotional impact.

Daniel Johnston's life was a testament to the power of art as a lifeline — a way to communicate, to cope, and to inspire. His story encourages us to listen closely to the voices that might otherwise be overlooked and to celebrate the beauty found in imperfection.

As you dive into daniel johnston the story of an artist, you'll discover a world where heartfelt simplicity meets profound complexity, and where a singular voice continues to ripple through the creative landscape.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Daniel Johnston and why is he considered an influential artist?

Daniel Johnston was an American singer-songwriter and visual artist known for his raw, emotional music and distinctive, childlike drawings. He gained a cult following for his honest expression of mental health struggles and outsider art style.

What is 'Daniel Johnston: The Story of an Artist' about?

'Daniel Johnston: The Story of an Artist' is a documentary that explores the life, music, and art of Daniel Johnston, highlighting his creative process and the challenges he faced with mental illness.

How did Daniel Johnston's mental health influence his art and music?

Daniel Johnston's bipolar disorder and schizophrenia deeply influenced his work, infusing his music and drawings with emotional intensity, vulnerability, and authenticity that resonated with many fans.

What makes Daniel Johnston's artistic style unique?

Johnston's artistic style is characterized by simple, childlike drawings featuring recurring characters like 'Jeremiah the Innocent,' which reflect his unfiltered perspective and emotional honesty.

How has Daniel Johnston impacted contemporary music and art?

Daniel Johnston has inspired numerous musicians and artists with his DIY approach, sincere songwriting, and outsider art aesthetic, influencing genres from indie rock to visual art communities.

Where can one watch 'Daniel Johnston: The Story of an Artist' documentary?

The documentary is available on various streaming platforms and sometimes featured in film festivals or special screenings dedicated to music and art documentaries.

What are some of Daniel Johnston's most famous songs featured in the documentary?

Some of Daniel Johnston's best-known songs include 'True Love Will Find You in the End,' 'Walking the Cow,' and 'Story of an Artist,' which are often highlighted in the documentary.

How did Daniel Johnston's relationship with other artists influence his career?

Johnston collaborated with and was supported by prominent musicians like Kurt Cobain and Tom Waits, which helped bring wider attention to his work and validate his contributions to music and art.

What is the significance of the title 'The Story of an Artist' in relation to Daniel Johnston?

The title reflects Johnston's journey as a creative individual navigating personal struggles while producing impactful art and music, emphasizing the narrative of his life as much as his artistic output.

Additional Resources

Daniel Johnston: The Story of an Artist

daniel johnston the story of an artist delves into the life and legacy of one of the most enigmatic and influential figures in the world of outsider music and art. Johnston's journey is a compelling narrative of raw creativity, mental health struggles, and the indelible mark he left on indie music culture. This exploration sheds light on how a self-taught musician and artist from a small Texas town captured the hearts of a generation with his unfiltered expression and poignant vulnerability.

Daniel Johnston: Background and Early Life

Born in 1961 in Sacramento, California, Daniel Johnston spent much of his childhood in West Virginia and later in Texas, where his family moved during his adolescence. From an early age, Johnston exhibited a profound interest in music and drawing, often merging the two passions in his homemade tapes and doodles. His early recordings, made on a simple cassette recorder, were marked by an innocent, childlike quality that contrasted starkly with the raw emotional depth of his lyrics.

Johnston's upbringing was complicated by the onset of bipolar disorder, which would shape both his personal life and his artistic output. His mental health challenges contributed to periods of isolation but also fueled the intense sincerity found in his work. The story of Daniel Johnston the artist is inextricably linked to his experiences with mental illness, making his creative contributions all the more poignant.

Musical Style and Artistic Approach

Johnston's music defies easy categorization. Often described as lo-fi, outsider, or indie folk, his songs are characterized by simple melodies, repetitive chord progressions, and deeply

personal lyrics. Unlike polished commercial productions, his recordings retain a sense of immediacy and intimacy, as if listeners were privy to the artist's private confessions.

Unique Characteristics of Johnston's Music

- **Raw Emotion:** Johnston's vocals often sound fragile and vulnerable, conveying his struggles and hopes without pretense.
- **Childlike Simplicity:** The melodies are straightforward and catchy, reminiscent of nursery rhymes or sing-alongs, which contrasts with the complexity of his themes.
- **DIY Ethos:** Most of his early work was self-recorded on cassette tapes, highlighting a grassroots, authentic approach to music production.
- **Lyrical Honesty:** His lyrics touch on love, mental anguish, spirituality, and existential questions, often in a poetic yet accessible manner.

Visual Artistry and Its Role

Aside from music, Johnston was also a prolific visual artist. His drawings, often featuring recurring characters like "Jeremiah the Frog" and "Joe the Boxer," are integral to understanding his creative universe. These illustrations are simplistic but deeply expressive, with a rawness paralleling his musical style. They have been exhibited worldwide and have contributed significantly to the perception of Johnston as a multifaceted artist.

The Impact of Mental Health on His Art

Daniel Johnston's story is inseparable from his ongoing battle with bipolar disorder and schizophrenia. His mental health influenced not only the content of his work but also his life trajectory. Episodes of hospitalization and erratic behavior punctuated his career, sometimes hindering his ability to perform or record consistently.

However, many critics and fans regard his mental health struggles as a source of profound artistic insight rather than a limitation. The authenticity and vulnerability that permeate his music and art have resonated deeply with audiences who find solace and understanding in his work. This intersection of creativity and mental illness raises important conversations about the relationship between art and psychology.

Challenges and Controversies

Johnston's unpredictable behavior occasionally led to difficulties in the music industry, including canceled tours and strained relationships with collaborators. Some have criticized the romanticization of his struggles, arguing that it risks overshadowing his talent and reducing his identity to that of a "tortured artist." Nevertheless, his resilience in continuing to create despite these obstacles is a testament to his dedication and passion for his craft.

Legacy and Influence

Despite never achieving mainstream commercial success, Daniel Johnston's influence has permeated the indie and alternative music scenes extensively. His work has inspired numerous artists, including Kurt Cobain, Beck, and Tom Waits, who have cited Johnston as an influence on their own music.

Documentaries and Cultural Recognition

The 2005 documentary, "The Devil and Daniel Johnston," directed by Jeff Feuerzeig, brought wider attention to Johnston's life and art. The film provides an intimate portrait of the artist, combining performance footage, interviews, and animation. It was critically acclaimed and helped cement Johnston's status as a cult icon.

Moreover, Johnston's artwork has been featured in galleries and exhibitions, further bridging the gap between outsider art and mainstream appreciation. His legacy continues to grow posthumously, with tributes, covers, and retrospectives celebrating his unique voice.

Key Contributions to Music and Art

1. Popularizing lo-fi music aesthetics that emphasize authenticity over studio perfection.
2. Bringing mental health awareness into the cultural conversation through his candid expression.
3. Blurring the lines between visual art and music, creating a holistic artistic identity.
4. Influencing a generation of artists who value emotional honesty and DIY creativity.

Comparisons With Contemporaries

When examining Daniel Johnston the story of an artist, it is useful to contextualize his work among his contemporaries in the lo-fi and outsider music scene. Artists such as Syd Barrett, Roky Erickson, and Elliott Smith also grappled with mental health issues that colored their music with a unique emotional depth. However, Johnston's unabashedly naïve style and whimsical art set him apart, positioning him as a singular figure whose work defies easy comparison.

Unlike more polished indie artists, Johnston's output maintains an unvarnished immediacy. This has endeared him to listeners who seek authenticity over commercial appeal. His influence is often felt indirectly, inspiring artists to embrace imperfection and emotional transparency.

The Enduring Appeal of Daniel Johnston's Work

More than two decades after his initial recordings, Daniel Johnston's music and art continue to inspire new audiences. The story of Daniel Johnston the artist is one of resilience, creativity, and the enduring power of personal expression. His work offers a rare glimpse into the mind of an artist unfiltered by commercial pressures or societal expectations.

For those exploring the intersections of music, mental health, and outsider art, Johnston's legacy provides a vital case study. His recordings remain widely available on digital platforms, and his visual art continues to be celebrated for its sincerity and emotional resonance.

In revisiting Daniel Johnston's story, one is reminded that true artistry often emerges from the margins—where raw talent, vulnerability, and perseverance converge to create something timeless.

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Illustrated biography of Daniel Johnston's life and art, including extremely rare photos from his early childhood through all stages of his career, Johnston's own artwork, interviews with the people in his life and an up-to-date discography. Johnston was the intense troubadour who in the 1980s distributed his own tape-cassettes and became world famous when Kurt Cobain wore a Johnston

t-shirt, and his agent negotiated record deals while he was in a mental hospital.' - Peter Bradshaw on the film *The Devil and Daniel Johnston*, *The Guardian*'

daniel johnston the story of an artist: Daniel Johnston Henry Glassie, 2020-03-03 DANIEL JOHNSTON, raised on a farm in Randolph County, returned from Thailand with a new way to make monumental pots. Back home in North Carolina, he built a log shop and a whale of a kiln for wood-firing. Then he set out to create beautiful pots, grand in scale, graceful in form, and burned bright in a blend of ash and salt. With mastery achieved and apprentices to teach, Daniel Johnston turned his brain to massive installations. First, he made a hundred large jars and lined them along the rough road that runs past his shop and kiln. Next, he arranged curving clusters of big pots inside pine frames, slatted like corn cribs, to separate them from the slick interiors of four fine galleries in succession. Then, in concluding the second phase of his professional career, Daniel Johnston built an open-air installation on the grounds around the North Carolina Museum of Art, where 178 handmade, wood-fired columns march across a slope in a straight line, 350 feet in length, that dips and lifts with the heave while the tops of the pots maintain a level horizon. In 2000, when he was still Mark Hewitt's apprentice, Daniel Johnston met Henry Glassie, who has done fieldwork on ceramic traditions in the United States, Brazil, Italy, Turkey, Bangladesh, China, and Japan. Over the years, during a steady stream of intimate interviews, Glassie gathered the understanding that enabled him to compose this portrait of Daniel Johnston, a young artist who makes great pots in the eastern Piedmont of North Carolina.

daniel johnston the story of an artist: Spukhafte Fernwirkung Ulrike Anna Bleier, 2022-11-09 Sind wir wirklich miteinander verbunden? Oder glauben wir das nur? Eine kaum überschaubare Menge Figuren tritt in Ulrike Anna Bleiers Roman auf, sie agieren miteinander und oft auch aneinander vorbei. Ihre Wege kreuzen sich oder driften auseinander wie Parallelen auf einer gekrümmten Fläche. Da ist zum Beispiel Carol, die in einem Einkaufszentrum in einen Amoklauf gerät. Oder Irma, die in einer Zeitungsredaktion arbeitet und Angst davor hat, ihren Job zu verlieren. Selim, der für seine Schwester Modell steht. Lars, der sich nur lebendig fühlt, wenn er bei Verabredungen nicht erscheint. Oder Silvana, die auf der Straße häkelt und Teil der Instagram-Aktion einer ehrgeizigen Museumspädagogin wird. Bleiers Figuren halten sich in Einkaufszentren, auf Autobahnen oder in Krankenhäusern auf und sind vor allem mit dem Alltag beschäftigt. Erzählerin ist dabei die Welt selbst. Sie hat keine Hauptfigur und keine Hierarchie der Ereignisse. Ulrike Anna Bleier hat für *Spukhafte Fernwirkung* ein völlig neues Konzept des Erzählens und Lesens entwickelt. Sie verzichtet auf ein einheitliches dramaturgisches Gerüst. Die Ereignisse erscheinen zufällig und beeinflussen sich doch gegenseitig. Das Erzählen in kurzen Episoden, das Ulrike Anna Bleier bereits in ihren beiden Vorgängerromanen praktiziert hat, wird in *Spukhafte Fernwirkung* auf die Spitze getrieben. Die Anordnung der Texte in den einzelnen Kapiteln folgt keiner starren Chronologie, sondern Konzepten wie Livetickern, Kilometerangaben, Jahreszahlen oder Blutdruckwerten. Wie lose Teile in einem Einkaufsbeutel stehen die einzelnen Episoden in einem Zusammenhang – oder auch nicht. Den Leser:innen ist es selbst überlassen, die vielen Verbindungen zu entdecken und die Fäden miteinander zu verknüpfen, das erzeugt Interaktion und Spannung. Der Text besticht außerdem durch Ulrike Anna Bleiers sehr eigene Sprache, ihr lakonisches Erzählen und ihren unterschwelligen Humor.

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daniel johnston the story of an artist: Video Conferencing Axel Volmar, Olga Moskatova, Jan Distelmeyer, 2023-11-02 The COVID-19 pandemic has reorganized existing methods of exchange, turning comparatively marginal technologies into the new normal. Multipoint videoconferencing in particular has become a favored means for web-based forms of remote

communication and collaboration without physical copresence. Taking the recent mainstreaming of videoconferencing as its point of departure, this anthology examines the complex mediality of this new form of social interaction. Connecting theoretical reflection with material case studies, the contributors question practices, politics and aesthetics of videoconferencing and the specific meanings it acquires in different historical, cultural and social contexts.

daniel johnston the story of an artist: The Deeper the Water the Uglier the Fish Katya Apekina, 2018-09-18 *2018 Los Angeles Times Book Prize Finalist *Longlisted for The Crook's Corner Book Prize *Longlisted for the 2019 VCU Cabell First Novelist Award *Shortlisted for the 2020 William Saroyan International Prize for Writing for Fiction *A Best Book of 2018 —Kirkus Reviews, BuzzFeed News, Entropy, LitReactor, LitHub *35 Over 35 Award 2018 *One of the Most Anticipated Books of the Fall —Vulture, Harper's BAZAAR, BuzzFeed News, Publishers Weekly, The Millions, Bustle, Fast Company It's 16-year-old Edie who finds their mother Marianne dangling in the living room from an old jump rope, puddle of urine on the floor, barely alive. Upstairs, 14-year-old Mae had fallen into one of her trances, often a result of feeling too closely attuned to her mother's dark moods. After Marianne is unwillingly admitted to a mental hospital, Edie and Mae are forced to move from their childhood home in Louisiana to New York to live with their estranged father, Dennis, a former civil rights activist and literary figure on the other side of success. The girls, grieving and homesick, are at first wary of their father's affection, but soon Mae and Edie's close relationship begins to fall apart—Edie remains fiercely loyal to Marianne, convinced that Dennis is responsible for her mother's downfall, while Mae, suffocated by her striking resemblances to her mother, feels pulled toward their father. The girls move in increasingly opposing and destructive directions as they struggle to cope with outsized pain, and as the history of Dennis and Marianne's romantic past clicks into focus, the family fractures further. Moving through a selection of first-person accounts and written with a sinister sense of humor, *The Deeper the Water the Uglier the Fish* powerfully captures the quiet torment of two sisters craving the attention of a parent they can't, and shouldn't, have to themselves. In this captivating debut, Katya Apekina disquietingly crooks the lines between fact and fantasy, between escape and freedom, and between love and obsession. The structure, characters and storyline are all refreshingly original, and the writing is nothing short of gorgeous. It's a stunningly accomplished book, and Apekina isn't afraid to grab her readers by the hand and take them to some very dark and very beautiful places. —Michael Schaub, NPR

daniel johnston the story of an artist: Inventing Place Casey Boyle, Jenny Rice, 2018-04-30 This book offers a sustained but varying examination of the spatial-temporal dynamics that compose place. Essays blend personal and scholarly accounts of Texas sites, examining place as a creation formed through the collaboration of a body with a particular space.

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college and non-commercial stations; often a prelude to larger success.

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daniel johnston the story of an artist: Nirvana: The True Story Everett True, 2009-11-04 Everett True is responsible for bringing Nirvana, Hole, Pavement, Soundgarden and a host of other bands to public attention. He introduced Kurt to Courtney, performed on stage with Nirvana on numerous occasions and famously pushed Kurt onto the stage of the Reading Festival in 1992 in a wheelchair. This is the true story written by the only journalist allowed into the Cobain house immediately after Kurt's death. True reveals the details of what the legendary band was really like, what happened to Cobain in Olympia and Seattle, how Kurt first met Courtney, and gives the lowdown on the scenes, the seminars, the live dates, the friends and the drug dealers surrounding the grunge explosion. A decade after Kurt Cobain's suicide, Nirvana continues to exert an enormous power on popular music as new generations discover the poignancy in their music. For the first time, here is a true insider's commentary on one of rock's most influential bands.

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regulation malfunction causing not only mood but behavioral symptoms. Severity and symptoms vary along a spectrum of disease presentations, from a happy, positive personality, to a moody temperament, to chronic and recurrent depressions, to classic manic-depressive illness. It is a chronic disease with periods of illness as well as remission. Keeping the disease under control requires daily maintenance and vigilance for emerging symptoms. The goal of this book is to help the bipolar person successfully manage his or her illness and live a full and meaningful life. First, the reader will learn all about bipolar disorder: how it presents, how it is diagnosed, how it is passed down in families, and how it affects women as compared to men. Next, the various types of treatment and the logistics of daily maintenance are discussed in detail. Finally, the advantages and disadvantages of bipolar disorder are explored and the lives of interesting and outstanding historical and current bipolar individuals are examined.

daniel johnston the story of an artist: Daniel Johnston Daniel Johnston, Philippe Vergne, Harvey Pekar, Jad Fair, 2014 La obra musical y artística de Daniel Johnston constituye una respuesta a la época de degradación social y humana de la cultura de masas en la que le tocó vivir. Símbolo de los «inadaptados» del mundo, su trabajo es la expresión de un universo mental caracterizado por el enfrentamiento constante contra uno mismo. El bien y el mal, que antiguamente se concebían como exterioridades del ser humano, han sido interiorizados y forman parte de nuestra alma, definen nuestras tensiones vitales, llegando a generar severos desequilibrios psíquicos, verdaderos raptos metamórficos, como el experimentado en carne propia por Johnston, cuyas principales vías de escape han sido sus dibujos y sus canciones. Es esta tensión básica la que podemos apreciar en las más de cien obras de Daniel Johnston que contiene este libro -algunas exhibidas en la Bienal del museo Whitney en 2006, otras nunca antes expuestas-, obtenidas de sus archivos personales, y que abarcan desde sus dibujos de juventud en sus cuadernos escolares, hasta sus más recientes trabajos a gran escala y en acuarela. Desfilan en ellos sus peculiares personajes: de un lado, Joe el Boxeador, el Capitán América, Gasparín, Hulk, los patos, y, del otro, casi siempre en un enfrentamiento a muerte, el Diablo, Vile Corrupt y otros seres aterradores. Los acompañan también la rana Jeremías, su alter ego más socorrido, y múltiples hombres con la cabeza sin tapa, de cuyo interior emerge este misterioso mundo, fascinante y al mismo tiempo aterrador. Complementan la edición los textos de Philippe Vergne, Jad Fair y Harvey Pekar. Si hay algo que los une es la consideración de Johnston como uno de los artistas más originales y auténticos de su generación, una especie rara que, como dice su canción «Story Of An Artist», no busca la fama y la gloria, sino que simplemente quiere «observar el mundo que lo rodea», «caminar solo entre las flores», «apreciar la luz del sol». «¿Es esto tan malo?», se pregunta él mismo. Todos sabemos la respuesta. -- Cubierta.

daniel johnston the story of an artist: On Extremity Bryan A. Bardine, Niall W.R. Scott, Nelson Varas-Díaz, 2023-06-12 On Extremity: From Music to Images, Words, and Experiences brings together transdisciplinary scholarship on sounds, images, words, and experiences (human and non-human) to reflect on the polysemic and polymorphic characteristics of extremity and the category of the extreme. The editors and authors aim to contribute to a living, breathing, and expanding definition of extremity that helps us understand what we gain, or lose, when we interact with it, create it, and share it with, or force it upon, others. The volume calls for the emergence of “extremity studies” as an area of perusal to help us navigate our current global condition.

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