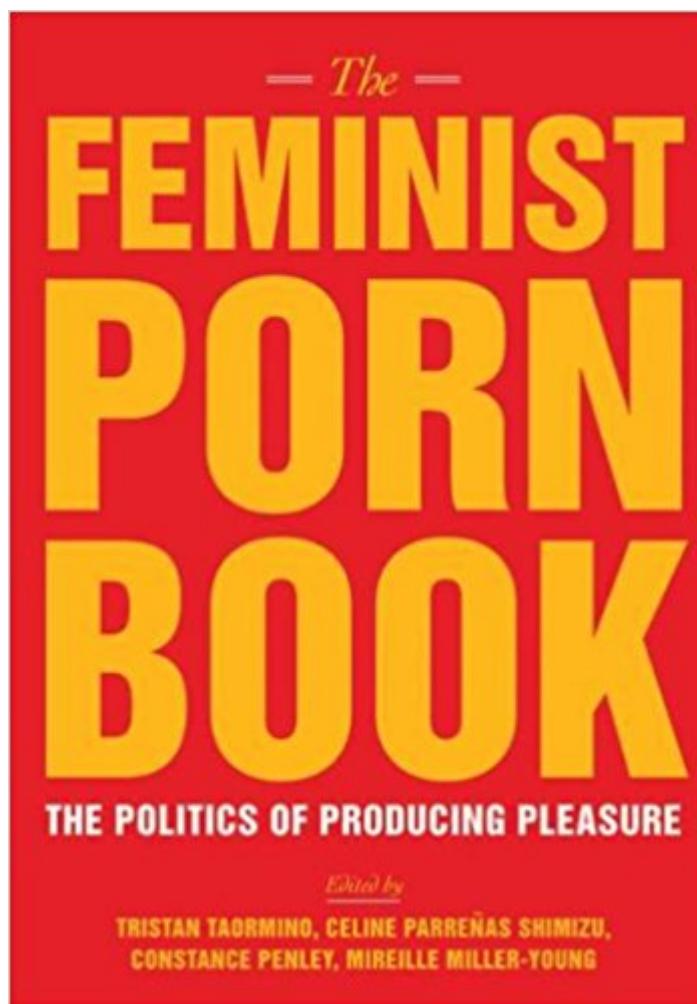


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The Feminist Porn Book: The Politics Of Producing Pleasure



Synopsis

The Feminist Porn Book brings together for the first time writings by feminists in the adult industry and research by feminist porn scholars. This book investigates not only how feminists understand pornography, but also how feminists do porn—that is, direct, act in, produce, and consume one of the world's most lucrative and growing industries. With original contributions by Susie Bright, Candida Royalle, Betty Dodson, Nina Hartley, Buck Angel, Lynn Comella, Jane Ward, Ariane Cruz, Kevin Heffernan, and more, The Feminist Porn Book updates the arguments of the porn wars of the 1980s, which sharply divided the women's movement, and identifies pornography as a form of expression and labor in which women and racial and sexual minorities produce power and pleasure.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Contributors aren't afraid to both objectively praise and criticize advances the industry has made (such as the way feminist porn has, for some, come to equate soft porn, and prescribe stereotypes of female desire), and provide both practical ways to become a smart feminist or queer porn consumer alongside academic approaches to the movement. The collection also rightfully includes essays on racial, queer, and transgender representations in porn, topics often marginalized in this discussion. Besides being extremely thoughtprovoking, this must-read collection is accessible to all readers, and the topic inherently makes it engaging and fun. Publishers Weekly (starred review) The voices that stand out most are those who've been traditionally either left out of mainstream porn or fetishized in a way that leaves them cold. After a historical overview from Betty Dodson, Susie

Bright, and Candida Royalle, the book presents women who knowingly entered porn to make women like them more visible. From April Flores on plus-size porn to Tobi Hill-Meyer on trans women's fight to be included at levels proportionate to trans men to Loree Erickson on disability in porn, each practically echo the other in conveying porn's real-life impact.¹⁵ The Hairpin¹⁶ For Taormino and other feminists involved in making and studying pornography, sexually explicit media provide an opportunity to critically engage with the relationship between identity and agency. By subverting and diversifying the often-stereotypical portrayals of sexuality found in much mainstream media, feminist pornographers invite traditionally marginalized audiences to connect with sex as a medium of pleasure and power. These explicit portrayals, grounded in a cognizance of pornography as both an industry and a cultural form, empower viewers to take charge while getting off.¹⁷ Manifesta Mag¹⁸ In terms both jarring and harrowing, women's bodies became the terrain on which the 2012 election was fought. That the choices, experiences, and consequences of women's sexual lives became fodder for such poorly informed national "conversations" is evidence of the pressing need for thoughtful, sex-positive scholarship which centers on women's sexual agency. The Feminist Porn Book is just such a contribution, and I predict this volume is going to find its way onto the bedside tables of several generations of American women. This volume brings together academics, activists, and porn entrepreneurs who have a startling array of interactions with pornography as an experience, a business, and a field of inquiry. This text is straightforward and informative in ways that are unfortunately rare in the multi-decade feminist struggle over porn. It's also fun and sometimes a bit naughty to read. The authors do not assume that the porn industry as it exists is the one essential and only possible incarnation of porn. Instead, they assume that when feminists engage, intervene in, produce, and study pornography, they can radically alter its formations and meanings. At the core of the book is the question: Can porn coexist with the principles of feminism? No matter how one ultimately adjudicates this question, The Feminist Porn Book leaves no doubt about the inherent value in the inquiry itself.¹⁹ Melissa Harris-Perry, author of *Sister Citizen: Shame, Stereotypes, and Black Women in America*²⁰ Finally the time is right for feminist porn! This stunning collection by academics and artists in dialogue accounts for the massive changes in technology, erotics, modes of spectatorship, and embodied identities which impact the world of pornography. As this volume demonstrates, we are now far from the sex wars of the 1980s, the sex panics of the 1990s, and well into a new era of erotic representation. In order to make sense of new and emergent worlds of desiring bodies, trans-femininities and trans-masculinities, transgressive racial performance, and the erotics of disabled bodies, read *The Feminist Porn Book*, and when you

are finished, go out and make some porn!"—Jack Halberstam, author of *Gaga Feminism: Sex, Gender and the End of Normal*“The Feminist Porn Book is a knockout! If this doesn't sway antiporn feminists to the pro-porn feminist side, I'll eat my bra. Let's come together right now!—Annie Sprinkle, feminist pornographer and eco-sex activist “This thrilling anthology brings together scholars, producers, and fans of feminist pornography to define an emerging movement of gender and sexual visionaries, working at the radically inclusive and egalitarian edges of sexual representation. The authors explore an ever-widening range of body types, and a proliferating variety of images, sensations, and feelings. They examine the conditions of production as well as the politics of representation. They show us the new feminist porn as deep play—challenging, exciting, and important.—Lisa Duggan, author of *Sapphic Slashers: Sex, Violence and American Modernity*"Finally: academics are actually talking to sex industry workers, pornographers are doubling as theorists, and feminists have grabbed the cameras. The Feminist Porn Book sets the agenda for new ways of thinking about the sticky social relations of dirty pictures." —Laura Kipnis, author of *Bound and Gagged: Pornography and the Politics of Fantasy in America*"This is the book that feminist scholars, teachers, students, and activists have been waiting for! Eloquent, smart, passionate, and engaging—each page of the The Feminist Porn Book offers a timely reminder of the continued importance of feminist interventions into the politics and production of pornography." —Carol Stabile, director of the Center for the Study of Women in Society at the University of Oregon“In this breakthrough collection, scholars, artists, and producers from across a spectrum of identities serve up profound new insights on making, consuming, and studying porn. This book advances my understanding of how porn works, when it doesn't, and why it matters. The short essay format makes this book ideal for teaching, but it's essential reading for anyone interested in sexual politics or contemporary culture.—Richard Fung, video artist and professor, Ontario College of Art and Design“The Feminist Porn Book is a readable and smart must-have for any classroom dealing with sexual representations.—Chuck Kleinhans, co-editor of *JUMP CUT: a review of contemporary media*“To have writings from so many of the most important creators in feminist porn in one anthology is wonderful. It captures the past, present, and future pioneering of this important film genre.—Shine Louise Houston, director and CEO of Pink and White Productions“This impressive volume of essays shows that thirty years after the feminist sex wars first erupted, porn is still a hot topic for the women's movement, and for the scholarly study of gender and sexuality. The Feminist Porn Book brings together a potent mix of perspectives from academics, activists, and sex industry workers, while addressing dis/ability,

transness, and race/ethnicity. Susan Stryker, director of the Institute for LGBT Studies, University of Arizona

Tristan Taormino is a sex educator, feminist pornographer, and the award-winning author of seven books including *The Ultimate Guide to Anal Sex for Women* and *Opening Up*. As head of Smart Ass Productions, she has directed and produced twenty-four adult films. She is the host of *Sex Out Loud* on The VoiceAmerica Talk Radio Network. Filmmaker and film scholar Celine Parreñas Shimizu is professor of Asian American Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Her books are *Straitjacket Sexualities* and *The Hypersexuality of Race*, winner of the 2009 Cultural Studies Book Award from the Association for Asian American Studies. Constance Penley is professor of film and media studies and co-director of the Carsey-Wolf Center, University of California, Santa Barbara. A founding editor of *Camera Obscura*, her work includes *The Future of an Illusion: Film, Feminism, and Psychoanalysis*, *NASA/TREK: Popular Science and Sex in America*, *Teaching Pornography* (forthcoming), and influential collections *Feminism and Film Theory*, *Male Trouble*, and *Technoculture*. Mireille Miller-Young is associate professor of feminist studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She researches and teaches about race, gender, and sexuality in popular culture and the sex industries. Her book, *A Taste for Brown Sugar: Black Women, Sex Work, and Pornography* (Duke University Press) examines African American women's sex work in the porn industry.

I adore this book. I bought kindle version for myself after sex-positive feminist friend recommended it to me, and then I bought paperback for my anti-porn feminist friend as a gift. Hope this book will change her point of view toward the porn. This book is compilation of many essays written by different authors of different kind of experience of porn. Some of them are porn stars, some of them are educators, editors, writers. Many information, many names. Many points of view from different angle. I really discovered a lot of thing I did not know about porn.

Nice collection of essays on pornography and feminism. This is sex-positive feminism, not the radical one.

Loved it!

An amazing read! I highly recommend for any sex positive readers

Great read

What began as a special "niche" community and a paradox decades ago is quickly gaining steam. There's an incredible throughline through most of the essays that gives credit to trailblazers like Annie Sprinkle, Betty Dodson, Candida Royalle and Nina Hartley (2 of which are contributors, and Sprinkle very much "active"... all three individuals and many, many others blowing away the notion of being "too old" to be in the sex and pleasure industry.) And this special "niche" community still defies description. If you're like me, your faves are here, either contributing or being acknowledged: Tristan Taormino, Susie Bright, Patrick Califia, Xavier Hollander, Shine Louise Houston. What I can only describe as the "new wave" of porn are contributors: Buck Angel, Jiz Lee, April Flores, to name a few. This book is a mind-blowing compilation. I lack the writing ability to describe how exciting a book like this is for many of us who love the stores (Good Vibrations, Pleasure Chest,) the books (Cleis Press, anything Susie Bright), and the performers who, by simply insisting on being themselves, create porn and pleasure for those of us outside the mainstream.

There were formatting problems in this edition that made some sections impossible to read. And although this collection of essays was eye opening, and informative, the work as a whole was incredibly repetitive and hard to get through. The writing styles vary widely, and there is little rhyme or reason for the sequencing. The same 10 names are referenced over and over. The essays would be good in isolation, but together they do not work to grab a reader. I would read this in episodes instead of trying to read it as a whole.

This book was great- FINALLY, a set of perspectives that we can really relate to. Are they biased? Sure, but whose stories aren't? At least these run the gamut. The point is not to agree with everything but to start to understand the nuances in feminist thought with regard to the porn industry. Scintillating read!

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