



# Speaking the Unspeakable: A Poetics of Obscenity (Sunny Series, the Margins of Literature)

*Peter Michelson*

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**Speaking the Unspeakable: A Poetics of Obscenity (Sunny Series, the Margins of Literature)** Peter Michelson

This book studies the literary and cinematic functions of the pornographic as a development from a poetics of obscenity. It focuses on the developments of French, British, and American artistic pornography since the eighteenth century. Discussing female literary figures including Hall, Wharton, Nin, Reage, Jong, and Shulman; such men as Cleland, Sade, Beardsley, Lawrence, Joyce, and Miller; and film makers such as Brakhage, Jack Smith, Bruce Conner, Bertolucci, Oshima, and Wertmuller; Michelson analyzes both the use of aesthetic pornography and the philosophical, cultural, and legal implications of its use. He proposes that realizing the obscene in the sense of speaking the unspeakable is the principle aesthetic function of pornography."

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