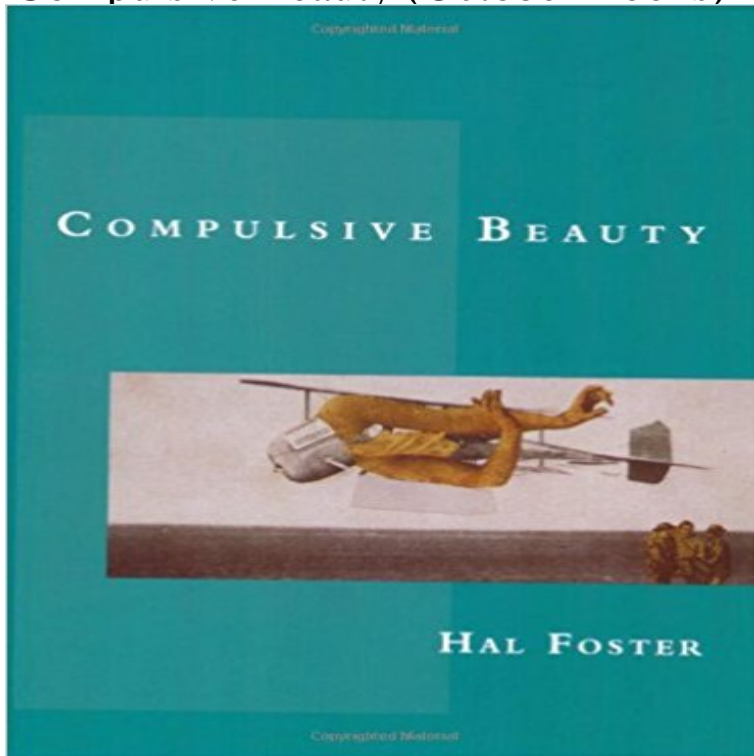


Compulsive Beauty (October Books)



Surrealism has long been seen as its founder, Andre Breton, wanted it to be seen: as a movement of love and liberation. In *Compulsive Beauty*, Foster reads surrealism from its other, darker side: as an art given over to the uncanny, to the compulsion to repeat and the drive toward death. To this end Foster first restages the difficult encounter of surrealism with Freudian psychoanalysis, then redefines the crucial categories of surrealism -- the marvelous, convulsive beauty, objective chance -- in terms of the Freudian uncanny, or the return of familiar things made strange by repression. Next, with the art of Giorgio de Chirico, Max Ernst, and Alberto Giacometti in mind, Foster develops a theory of the surrealist image as a working over of a primal fantasy. This leads him finally to propose as a summa of surrealism a body of work often shunted to its margins: the dolls of Hans Bellmer, so many traumatic tableaux that point to difficult connections not only between sadism and masochism but also between surrealism and fascism. At this point *Compulsive Beauty* turns to the social dimension of the surrealist uncanny. First Foster reads the surrealist repertoire of automatons and mannequins as a reflection on the uncanny processes of mechanization and commodification. Then he considers the surrealist use of outmoded images as an attempt to work through the historical repression effected by these same processes. In a brief conclusion he discusses the fate of surrealism today in a world become surrealistic. *Compulsive Beauty* not only offers a deconstructive reading of surrealism, long neglected by Anglo-American art history, but also participates in a postmodern reconsideration of modernism, the dominant accounts of which have obscured its involvements in desire and trauma, capitalist shock and technological development.

selection of similar Used, New and Collectible Books available now at . **Compulsive Beauty : Hal Foster :**
9780262560818 - Book Depository Compulsive Beauty (October Books) by Foster, Hal and a great selection of similar
Used, New and Collectible Books available now at . **Compulsive Beauty - Hal Foster - Google Books** Surrealism has
long been seen as its founder, Andre Breton, wanted it to be seen: as a movement of love and liberation. In Compulsive
Beauty, Foster reads