

Joan of Arc and Sacrificial Authorship

By Ann W. Astell

University of Notre Dame Press, United States, 2003. Paperback. Book Condition: New. New.. 226 x 154 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. A host of modern authors have portrayed Joan of Arc as a heroine. Identifying with the medieval saint and martyr as a figure of the artist, they tell her story as a way of commenting on their own situation in a world where the power of art has decreased. Blending the theoretical insights of Walter Benjamin, Roland Barthes and Rene Girard, Ann W. Astell persuasively argues that many modern authors have seen their own artistic vocation in the visions and voices that inspired Joan. Astell's pathbreaking study explores the treatment of Joan of Arc in the works of such renowned and diverse authors as Mark Twain, Samuel Coleridge, Virginia Woolf, Friedrich Schiller, George Bernard Shaw, Bertolt Brecht and Lillian Helman. Astell contends that in Joan's problematic identity as a peasant woman, these writers find an image for their own status as outsiders and potential scapegoats. Joan's condemnation and cruel death by fire mirror the anxious fears of artists who find themselves in a philistine marketplace. By depicting Joan's miraculous victories and ultimate canonization...

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