



## Enigmas: Egyptian Moment in Society and Art (Paperback)

By Mario Perniola

Verso Books, United Kingdom, 1995. Paperback. Condition: New. New.. Language: English . Brand New Book. What do we fear most? Repetition or difference? The return of a barbarism that is remote and prehistoric or the advent of a barbarism that is technological as post-human? In this succinct and innovative book, Mario Perniola, one of Italy's most influential philosophers and critics, argues that our society is living through an Egyptian moment - a postmodern era marked by a particular brand of reification. As the products of high technology come increasingly to assume organic properties, to be endowed with an independent capacity for perception, humanity becomes thing-like, not in the familiar sense of unconscious alienation, but rather in the sense of a deliberate and cynical treatment of itself as an object. We are, he claims, undergoing a process of self-mummification. Perniola mixes philosophy and aesthetics with clarity and erudition, whether he is discussing strategic beauty in the work of Baltasar Gracian, the anti-cynicism of Carlo Michelstaedter, or Guy Debord's notion of the secret. In his approach to such topics as periodization, the place of the mirror in Western thought, hermeneutics and utopianism, he draws from high and mass culture with...



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