

Sheela-na-gigs

Unravelling an enigma

Barbara Freitag

Routledge
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Sheela Na Gigs Unravelling An Enigma

Starr Goode



Sheela Na Gigs Unravelling An Enigma:

Sheela-na-gigs Barbara Freitag,2005-08-15 A study of the mysterious stone carvings of naked females exposing their genitals on medieval churches all over the British Isles

Sheela-na-gigs Barbara Freitag,2005-08-15 Here Barbara Freitag examines all the literature on the subject since their discovery 160 years ago highlighting the inconsistencies of the various interpretations in regard to origin function and name By considering the Sheela na gigs in their medieval social context she suggests that they were folk deities with particular responsibility for assistance in childbirth This fascinating survey sheds new light on a controversial phenomenon and also contains a complete catalogue of all known Sheela na gigs including hitherto unrecorded or unpublished figures

Spirituality and Childbirth Susan Crowther,Jenny Hall,2017-09-13 Highlighting aspects of birth often taken for granted ignored or left silenced this book questions the art and meaning of childbirth Addressing spirituality in and around the start of life from a variety of thought provoking perspectives it examines the apparent paradox of impersonal biomedical technocratic systems operating alongside the meaningful experiences encountered by those involved Themes covered include Notions of holism and spirituality culture religion and spirituality Childbirth significance at societal level Spiritual care in maternity care provision Birth environment mood space and place Spiritual experience of all those involved including health professionals Spiritual experience when birth is complex and challenging When birth and death are juxtaposed Although there is considerable literature on spirituality at the end of life this is the only book that draws together a global and multidisciplinary selection of academic researchers and practitioners to reflect on spirituality at the start of life Each chapter explores the relevant theoretical background and makes links to practice using case studies from research and practice The chapters conclude by discussing how spiritual care is and should be provided in this context what practice approaches are beneficial cross cultural perspectives and future directions for research It is an important read for all those interested in childbirth maternity care social science perspectives on health and illness and spirituality

Sexuality in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Times Albrecht Classen,2008-12-10 Sexuality is one of the most influential factors in human life The responses to and reflections upon the manifestations of sexuality provide fascinating insights into fundamental aspects of medieval and early modern culture This interdisciplinary volume with articles written by social historians literary historians musicologists art historians and historians of religion and mental ity demonstrates how fruitful collaborative efforts can be in the exploration of essential features of human society Practically every aspect of culture both in the Middle Ages and the early modern age was influenced and determined by sexuality which hardly ever surfaces simply characterized by prurient interests The treatment of sexuality in literature chronicles music art legal documents and in scientific texts illuminates central concerns anxieties tensions needs fears and problems in human society throughout times

Sheela na gig Starr Goode,2016-11-15 Traces the origins of the Sheela na gig from Medieval times to Paleolithic cave art Reveals the sacred display of the vulva to be a

universal archetype and the most enduring image of creativity throughout the world Provides meditations on the Sheelas the author encountered in Ireland England Scotland and Wales allowing readers to commune with the power of these icons Includes more than 150 photographs and illustrations from around the world For millennia the human imagination has been devoted to the Goddess so it is hardly a surprise to find images of supernatural females like Sheela na gigs adorning sacred and secular architecture throughout Ireland England Wales and Scotland Appearing on rural churches castles bridges holy wells tombs and standing stones these powerful images of a figure fearlessly displaying her vulva embody the power of the Dark Goddess over the mysteries of sex life death and rebirth Exploring the art and myth of the Sheela na gig from Celtic and Classical times back to Paleolithic cave art Starr Goode shows how the Sheela embraces a conundrum of opposites she clearly offers up her ripe sex yet emanates a repelling menace from the upper half of her hag like body Through more than 150 photographs the author shows how the Sheela is a goddess with the power to renew a folk deity used to help women survive childbirth and as a guardian of doorways and castle walls a liminal entity representing the gateway to the divine She explains how these powerful images survived eradication during the rise of Christianity and retained their preeminent positions on sacred sites including medieval churches The author provides meditations on the individual Sheelas she encountered during her 25 years of research allowing readers to commune with these icons and feel the power they emanate Exploring comparable figures such as Baubo Medusa the Neolithic Frog Goddess and vulva depictions in cave art she reveals the female sacred display to be a universal archetype the most enduring image of creativity throughout history and illustrates how cultures from Africa and Ecuador to India and Australia possess similar images depicting goddesses parting their thighs to reveal sacred powers Explaining the role of the Sheela na gig in restoring the Divine Feminine the author shows the Sheela to be an icon that makes visible the cycles of birth death and renewal all humans experience and a necessary antidote to centuries of suppression of the primal power of women of nature and of the imagination

The Meanings of Nudity in Medieval Art Sherry C. M. Lindquist, 2012 Addressing a strangely neglected key issue in the history of art this volume engages the variety and complexity of medieval representations of the unclothed human body The Meanings of Nudity in Medieval Art breaks ground by offering a variety of approaches to explore the meanings of both male and female nudity in European painting manuscripts and sculpture ranging from the late antique era to the fifteenth century

Mythmaking across Boundaries Züleyha Çetiner-Öktem, 2016-04-26 This volume explores the dynamics of myths throughout time and space along with the mythmaking processes in various cultures literatures and languages in a wide range of fields ranging from cultural studies to the history of art The papers brought together here are motivated by two basic questions How are myths made in diverse cultures and literatures And do all different cultures have different myths to be told in their artistic pursuits To examine these questions the book offers a wide array of articles by contributors from various cultures which focus on theory history space place philosophy literature language gender and storytelling Mythmaking across Boundaries

not only brings together classical myths but also contemporary constructions and reconstructions through different cultural perspectives by transcending boundaries Using a wide spectrum of perspectives this volume instead of emphasising the different modes of the mythmaking process connects numerous perceptions of mythmaking and investigates diversities among cultures languages and literatures viewing them as a unified whole As the essays reflect on both academic and popular texts the book will be useful to scholars and students as well as the general reader Ambiguous Women in Medieval Art Monica Ann Walker Vadillo,2019-12-31 Ambiguous Women in Medieval Art brings together the work of seven researchers who coming from different perspectives and in some cases different disciplines approach the question of ambiguity in relation to different case studies where the represented women do not follow the ever present dichotomy exemplified by Eve and Mary In doing so they demonstrate the complexities of a topic that is as contemporary as it is ancient Through them we can get valuable insights on the understanding and experience of gender in the past and the ways in which these experiences have shaped our own understanding of this topic *Scenes of the Obscene* Cassandra Nakas,Jessica Ullrich,2014-05-27 Artists and the public alike have always been fascinated by obscene imagery The Obscene however is difficult to define One of the earliest interpretations is of Greek origin and argues that the word derives from ob skene indicating the space behind the stage or scene Off scene remains what should be hidden from public view be it morally questionable offensive disgusting or unbearable to look at This book presents a collection of essays that cast light on some Scene of the Obscene in art and visual culture from the Middle Ages to today taking into consideration the malleable nature of socio cultural assumptions and theoretical reflections on the topic The contributions focus on historically distinct artistic acts and social sites where established cultural categories and legal norms are violated with artists and publishers deliberately breaking moral taboos and offending the public taste They discuss how society reacted to these transgressions and how obscenity and its conceptions shape the face of their respective time *Medieval Religion and its Anxieties* Thomas A. Fudgé,2016-10-20 This book examines the broad varieties of religious belief religious practices and the influence of religion within medieval society Religion in the Middle Ages was not monolithic Medieval religion and the Latin Church are not synonymous While theology and liturgy are important an examination of animal trials gargoyles last judgments various aspects of the medieval underworld and the quest for salvation illuminate lesser known dimensions of religion in the Middle Ages Several themes run throughout the book including visual culture heresy and heretics law and legal procedure along with sexuality and an awareness of mentalities and anxieties Although an expanse of 800 years has passed the remains of those other Middle Ages can be seen today forcing us to reassess our evaluations of this alluring and often overlooked past

Reviewing **Sheela Na Gigs Unravelling An Enigma**: Unlocking the Spellbinding Force of Linguistics

In a fast-paced world fueled by information and interconnectivity, the spellbinding force of linguistics has acquired newfound prominence. Its capacity to evoke emotions, stimulate contemplation, and stimulate metamorphosis is truly astonishing. Within the pages of "**Sheela Na Gigs Unravelling An Enigma**," an enthralling opus penned by a very acclaimed wordsmith, readers set about an immersive expedition to unravel the intricate significance of language and its indelible imprint on our lives. Throughout this assessment, we shall delve to the book is central motifs, appraise its distinctive narrative style, and gauge its overarching influence on the minds of its readers.

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