



# French Visual Culture and the Making of Medieval Theater

*Laura Weigert*

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## **French Visual Culture and the Making of Medieval Theater** Laura Weigert

This book revives what was unique, strange, and exciting about the variety of performances that took place in the realms of the French kings and Burgundian dukes. Laura Weigert brings together a wealth of visual artifacts and practices to explore this tradition of late medieval performance taking place, not in 'theaters', but in churches, courts, and streets. By stressing the theatricality rather than the realism of fifteenth-century visual culture and the spectacular rather than the devotional nature of its effects, she offers a new way of thinking about late medieval representation and spectatorship. She shows how images that document medieval performance instead revise its characteristic features to conform to a play-going experience associated with classical antiquity. This retrospective vision of a late medieval performance tradition contributed to its demise in sixteenth-century France and promoted assumptions about medieval theater that continue to inform the contemporary disciplines of art and theater history.

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