

Download Sublime Dreams Of Living Machines The Automaton In The European Imagination

Sublime Dreams of Living Machines argues effectively that the automaton is both a central idea and a conceptual tool in the Western imagination. Automata are simultaneously captivating and disturbing, transcending boundaries between life and death, between the natural and the artificial, and so provoking mixed yet powerful responses. Kang aims, he writes, to launch a history of the imagination that will focus not on what happened, but on what people have fantasized about. Most significantly, three middle chapters—"The Man-Machine in the World-Machine, 1637–1748," "From the Man-Machine to the Automaton-Man, 1748–1793" and "The Uncanny Automaton, 1789–1833"—trace an interconnected series of developments around eighteenth-century [End Page 627] Western Europe. In the wake of the scientific revolution,... Sublime Dreams of Living Machines: The Automaton in the European Imagination. He concludes with a reflection on the destructive confrontation between humanity and machinery in the modern era and the reverberations of the humanity-machinery theme today. Sublime Dreams of Living Machines is an ambitious historical exploration and, at heart,...