

The Evolution of Allure: Sexual Selection from the Medici Venus to the Incredible Hulk

George Hersey



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The Evolution of Allure: Sexual Selection from the Medici Venus to the Incredible Hulk George Hersey The beauty of the human body has found a daring beholder in art historian George Hersey, who for the first time brings modern Darwinian theories of sexual selection (mate competition, attractor manipulation, and the like) into the history of art. *The Evolution of Allure* shows how Western art has channeled mate choice, exploiting the cosmetics, clothes, muscles, organs, and ornaments that showcase the body. From the Medici Venus to Vitruvius, Leonardo, Dürer, and the phone-sex goddesses of *D-Cup Superstars*, Hersey's lively, erotically charged text shows that the formulas set forth by the Greek sculptor Polykleitos have established a Western canon of human gestures and proportions and may have influenced human evolution.

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James Haney:

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