Recovering the Black Female Body: Self-representations By African American Women

Michael Bennett Vanessa D. Dickerson


The essays in this volume focus on how African American women, from the nineteenth century to the present, have represented their bodies in art, literature, and other cultural forms. The contributors explore the ways in which black women have used self-representation to assert their agency and control over the female body in an oppositional act of self-representation. They analyze representations of black women's bodies, including their derrieres, and discuss the ways in which black women have asserted their dignity and independence by advocating for traditionally African American artists and their work in an enduring climate of racial hostility and anxiety.