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The Exposed Body

edited by CAMILLA SALVANESCHI and ANGELA VETTESE

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The Exposed Body Colophon

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This volume is the first of a series curated by Clarissa Ricci, Camilla Salvaneschi and Angela Vettese, and titled OBOE Books. It collects new contributions and a selection of revised papers presented at the series of seminars “The Exposed Body” part of the Doctoral programme in Visual arts, performing arts and fashion studies of the Università Iuav di Venezia between December 2021 and November 2022.

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Introducing the Exposed Body

CAMILLA SALVANESCHI AND ANGELA VETTESE

This volume emerged from a series of cross-disciplinary lectures and seminars organised by the Iuav University's Doctoral School in Visual Arts, Performance, and Fashion. Artists, curators, and scholars from around the world were brought together to share their approaches and reconsider the liaison between the body and its audience. Since the complicated relation between the privacy of the body and its public display continues to provoke criticism and debate, the aim was to nurture current debates and become a point of departure for a sustained reflection on the subject. Without offering responses but instead opening up many questions, we tried to contribute to a debate which is, and doubtless will continue to be, at the centre of the shifting, tormented, and hyperstimulated sensibility of life in the 21st century.

This era understands itself as a time when the body is made visible as never before. It has become clear that whether through physical presence, photography, film, electronic media, or virtual reality, alongside the new perspectives on the body offered by advanced diagnostic technologies, the ways in which bodies are exposed, both to the outside and to us, have become increasingly numerous and sometimes even intrusive. Exposing the body may be a way to liberate one's own physicality or to offer oneself to others; others intended as all the beings, creatures, and organisms with which the body enters into contact. Yet this exposure comes with undeniable consequences: new psychological and physical pathologies, more attention given to weak body language rather than verbal communication, and a new consciousness of our embodied reactions resultant from recent methods of clinical data visualisation.

The ability not only to be self-aware, but also to have an affective horizon based on corporeality, will soon be crucial in the face of the technological advances in Artificial Intelligence systems. Until a few years ago, they were considered enormous aids to medical knowledge; but it is a fact that in 2023, two of the fathers of Artificial Intelli-