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What Is an Apparatus? and Other Essays (Paperback)

By Giorgio Agamben

Stanford University Press, United States, 2009. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. The three essays collected in this book offer a succinct introduction to Agamben's recent work through an investigation of Foucault's notion of the apparatus, a meditation on the intimate link of philosophy to friendship, and a reflection on contemporariness, or the singular relation one may have to one's own time. Apparatus (dispositif in French) is at once a most ubiquitous and nebulous concept in Foucault's later thought. In a text bearing the same name (What is a dispositif?) Deleuze managed to contribute its mystification, but Agamben's leading essay illuminates the notion: I will call an apparatus, he writes, literally anything that has in some way the capacity to capture, orient, determine, intercept, model, control, or secure the gestures, behaviors, opinions, or discourses of living beings. Seen from this perspective, Agamben's work, like Foucault's, may be described as the identification and investigation of apparatuses, together with incessant attempts to find new ways to dismantle them. Though philosophy contains the notion of philosophy or friend, in its very name, philosophers tend to be very skeptical about friendship. In...



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