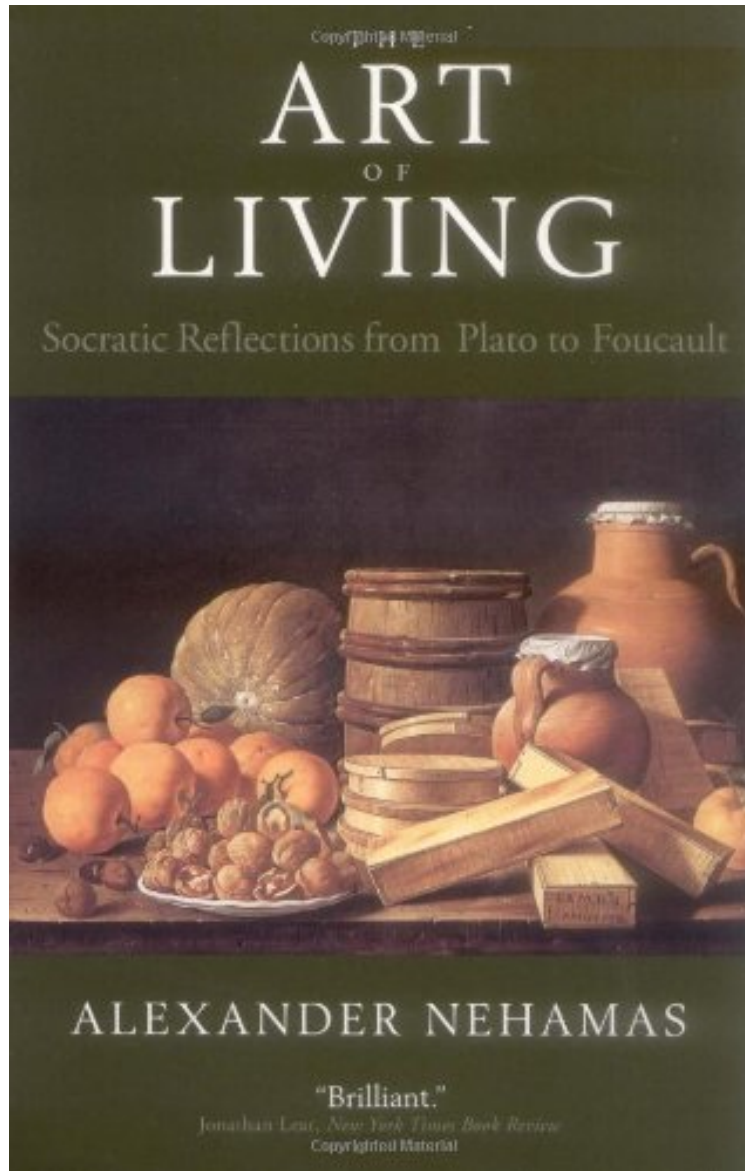


The Art of Living: Socratic Reflections from Plato to Foucault (Sather Classical Lectures)

Von Alexander Nehamas
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Von Alexander Nehamas : The Art of Living: Socratic Reflections from Plato to Foucault (Sather Classical Lectures) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Art of Living: Socratic Reflections from Plato to Foucault (Sather Classical Lectures):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
Nehamas: Profound and DeepVon Ein KundeThe reader from Mountain View CA doesn't know what he or she is talking about. This book certainly is worth the money, and yes it is exegetical (not "exegisis" sic), but that is one reason why this book is extremely worthwhile - a sensitive reading of some major modern thinkers in the light of Socratic philosophy. To know oneself today means to be able to think in humanistic terms. This book is what philosophy ought to be about.1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Thoughtful and InsightfulVon Terence HarwickThe author frames his philosophical inquiry in terms of questions which have inspired great thinkers. He does not write a "how to" book or offer recipes for readers interested in a quick fix. Readers interested in thoughtful consideration of such issues may find that here. They need not be discouraged by anonymous reviewers whose personal needs for gratification were apparently unmet.1 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Nehamas: pretentious and shallowVon Ein KundeThe implication of this book's title is that the author, Alexander Nehamas, knows something about the art of living. He doesn't.The book lacks a substantive thesis, consisting largely of the exegisis of esoteric texts and dry, empty interpretations. The text-by-text approach yields a jerky book too low on content to be interesting.Save your money.

KurzbeschreibungFor much of its history, philosophy was not merely a theoretical discipline but a way of life, an "art of living." This practical aspect of philosophy has been much less dominant in modernity than it was in ancient Greece and Rome, when philosophers of all stripes kept returning to Socrates as a model for living. The idea of philosophy as an art of living has survived in the works of such major modern authors as Montaigne, Nietzsche, and Foucault. Each of these writers has used philosophical discussion as a means of establishing what a person is and how a worthwhile life is to be lived. In this wide-ranging, brilliantly written account, Alexander Nehamas provides an incisive reevaluation of Socrates' place in the Western philosophical tradition and shows the importance of Socrates for Montaigne, Nietzsche, and Foucault.Why does each of these philosopherseach fundamentally concerned with his own originalityreturn to Socrates as a model? The answer lies in the irony that characterizes the Socrates we know from the Platonic dialogues. Socratic irony creates a mask that prevents a view of what lies behind. How Socrates led the life he did, what enabled or inspired him, is never made evident. No tenets are proposed. Socrates remains a silent and ambiguous character, forcing readers to come to their own conclusions about the art of life. This, Nehamas shows, is what allowed Montaigne, Nietzsche, and Foucault to return to Socrates as a model without thereby compelling them to imitate him.This highly readable, erudite study argues for the importance of the tradition within Western philosophy that is best described as "the art of living" and casts Montaigne, Nietzsche, and Foucault as the three major modern representatives of this tradition. Full of original ideas and challenging associations, this work will offer new ways of thinking about the philosophers Nehamas discusses and about the discipline of philosophy itself.deIf philosophy is primarily a theoretical discipline, suggests Alexander Nehamas, it is because it has become one through the influence of tradition. But there exists another tradition, which flourished in classical Greece, in which philosophical pursuits were much more thoroughly integrated into the creation of one's full identity, both in regard to morality and personality. "In the case of pure theory," Nehamas explains, "the only issue that matters is whether the issues to one's questions are or are not correct. In the case of theory that affects life, the truth of one's views is still an issue, but what also matters is the kind of person, the sort of self, that one manages to construct as a result of accepting them." Nehamas fleshes out the origins and development of this philosophical style in the Socratic dialogues of Plato, then goes on to show how the model of "the art of living" that Socrates presented to the world influenced the philosophies of Montaigne, Nietzsche, and Foucault. The book's six chapters are notable for their close readings of Nehamas's chosen subjects, and for the erudite straightforwardness with which he is able to lay out his proposal for renewed attention to a discipline of thought that, he freely admits, is not the one true way of philosophy, but is one that has had many fruitful results. --Ron HoganPressestimmen"[A] beautifully lucid account of philosophy as the art of constructing a unified self."--Melissa Lane, "Classical