



The Challenges of Uncertainty

Jeremy Robbins

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This original and lucidly written book introduces the reader to the Baroque, the richest period of Spanish literature and culture. Jeremy Robbins shows how its creativity responded directly to the unprecedented sense of uncertainty fostered by developments across Europe. He argues that it was above all this scepticism which led Spaniards to employ literature and art to question the boundaries of reality and illusion. The result was the creation of some of the most inventive, entertaining, challenging and powerful works of imagination in Europe. Currently there exists no other concise introduction to Spanish Baroque literature and culture. The book considers in detail works by the major novelists, dramatists, poets and painters. Part of its novel approach is the attention the author gives to key issues such as honour and identity, the influence of social and literary institutions like the court and the church, and the place of women as both creators and consumers of culture. It also considers neglected literary forms, such as the aphorism and the emblem, as well as the immensely popular and influential political and moral writings of the day. A comprehensive glossary to major and minor figures is included.



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