Bauer's book makes an important contribution to German cultural studies both in terms of its focus on gender and the body in Weimar-era cultural production and in its approach to reading literary and visual texts alongside each other across conventional disciplinary boundaries. Grounding her analysis in the work of Judith Butler, Bauer (Virginia Tech) analyzes a selection of literary texts and paintings from the early 20th century—work by Vicki Baum, Franz Kafka, Thomas Mann, Otto Dix, Christian Schad, and Egon Schiele. She argues compellingly that these writers and artists portrayed bodies as sites of desire and power in ways that subverted dominant regimes of gender and sexuality. In doing so, she adds to understanding of a pivotal moment in 20th-century German culture, including phenomena such as the "new woman" and Neue Sachlichkeit (new objectivity). Although the book is thoroughly grounded in gender theory, it remains accessible. Of particular use for nonspecialists is Bauer's application of "interdisciplinary collage" in her juxtaposition of paintings and literary texts to reveal a shared focus on gender in all the works she analyzes. This broad interdisciplinary approach provides a viable model for critiquing cultural texts across disciplines, cultural traditions, and periods. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.

--B. Boovy, Oregon State University

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