



# Exhibitionism: A Popular History of Performance And Display

Chris Nancollas

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The story of exhibitionism goes back as far as the human race has had a culture of modesty, for some, as long ago as Adam and Eve chose to cover up in the Garden of Eden. As ideas of civility developed with time, stripping off in public came to be seen to be increasingly voyeuristic, depraved, and was often associated with madness. Exhibitionism or 'indecent exposure' was first classified as a mental disorder in 1877 by French physician Charles Lasègue. Fast forward to the present day exhibitionism is considered, in part, to involve 'a tendency towards display and extravagant behaviour'. Using this definition as a starting point, Chris Nancollas presents the first popular biography that attempts to redefine exhibitionism and explore it's cultural history, psychology and psychopathology, as well as it's manifestations in the world of art – from the painters of the Palaeolithic era to David Bowie, architecture – from the builders of Stonehenge to Richard Rodgers, acting - from the travelling companies of antiquity to Marlon Brando, and in the sex industry.



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