



Marjorie Garber

A
Manifesto



for

**Literary
Studies**



Walter Chapin Simpson Center for the Humanities Short Studies

Resumo de A Manifesto for Literary Studies

"A Manifesto for Literary Studies," writes Marjorie Garber, "is an attempt to remind us of the specificity of what it means to ask literary questions, and the pleasure of thinking through and with literature."

It is a manifesto in the sense that it invites strong declarations and big ideas, rather than impeccable small contributions to edifices long under construction." Known for her timely challenges to the preconceptions and often unquestioned boundaries that circumscribe our culture, Garber's beautifully crafted arguments situate "big public questions of intellectual importance"--such as human nature and historical correctness--within the practice of literary historians and critics.

This manifesto revives the ancient craft whose ultimate focus is language in action. In this book, Garber passionately states that "the future importance of literary studies--and, if we care about such things, its intellectual and cultural prestige both among the other disciplines and in the world--will come from taking risks, and not from playing it safe." "In this thoughtful polemic, Marjorie Garber boldly examines the current cultural status of literary studies.

Have practitioners of literary studies forfeited the prestige of their discipline to historians? Have quintessentially literary questions about language and form been overwhelmed by an often nonliterary allegiance to the material world?

How has it come about that discursive ownership of the concept of 'human nature' has passed from the humanities to the sciences? Exploring such issues in her contagiously readable, graceful style, Garber importantly reasserts the centrality of literary studies to discussions of meaning, value, and identity."--Mary Beth Rose, Institute for the Humanities, University of Illinois at Chicago

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