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Humanities \ Philosophy

Marder, Michael. **The event of the thing: Derrida's post-deconstructive realism.** Toronto, 2009. 186p index afp; ISBN [9780802098924](#), \$45.00. Reviewed in 2009sep CHOICE.

Marder (Univ. of Toronto) leads readers through an analysis of Derrida's understanding of the thing. This volume quotes Derrida's numerous texts but only engages many contemporary Derridean scholars in its extensive endnotes. Marder's presentation is original if not always particularly clear. He explores the ramifications of the idea of the event of the thing for psychoanalysis, aesthetics, and literary theory. He writes of the thing as signifying "non-oppositional otherness and non-identity." In chapter 1 he argues for "unbinding the thing from the subject" by exhibiting the inability on the order of knowledge to analyze the event of the thing. Chapter 2 traces Derrida's disruption of the primacy of consciousness, reversal of Husserlian reductions, and challenge to Heidegger's categorical/existential divide. Chapter 3 considers Derrida's analysis of psychoanalysis and fetishism, and ends in a discussion of value and virtue. Chapter 4 engages Derrida's aesthetics. Marder concludes with a defense of the claim that Derrida's post deconstructive realism is situated within deconstruction itself. The author has moments of truly insightful clarity, but also pages of prose too deeply ensconced in the texts of Derrida. **Summing Up:** Recommended. Graduate students and faculty/researchers. -- *J. Donohoe, University of West*

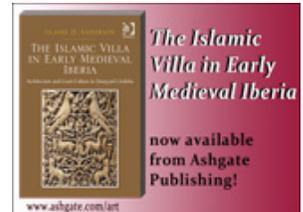
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