

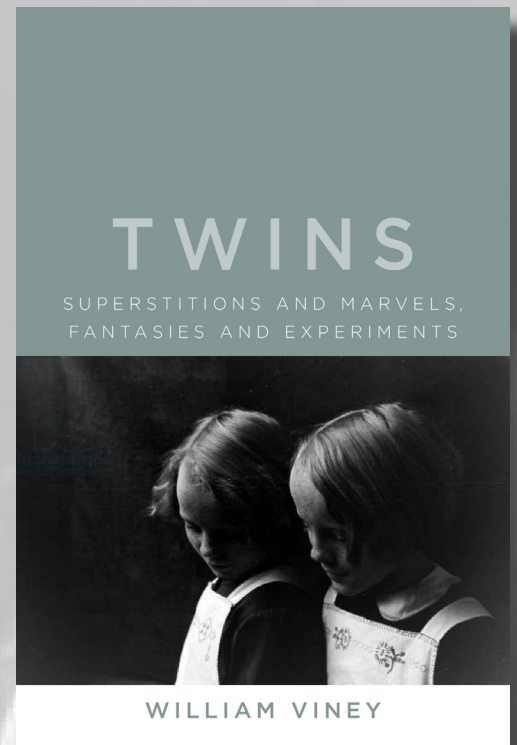
TWINS

Superstitions and Marvels, Fantasies and Experiments

William Viney

Hardback
9781789144086
21 illustrations, 10 in colour
12 April 2021

£20.00



‘This is a book of probing intelligence, curiosity, and wit, of quickened fascination, and sometimes fear. Will Viney takes us on an ever-expanding and ever-more intimate journey through our ways of thinking about and with twins, the poetry, science, and theater of twinship. He explores what these help us to know of the human, and what they can make us blind to. *Twins* shifts the ways you see familiar things, and the ways we name the stranger ones.’ — Kenneth Gross, author of *Puppet: An Essay on Uncanny Life*

Human twins have many meanings and different histories. They have been seen as gods and monsters, signs of danger, death and sexual deviance. They are taken as objects of wonder and violent repression, the subjects of scientific experiment. Now millions are born through fertility technologies. Their history is often buried in philosophies and medical theories, religious and scientific practices, and countless stories of devotion and tragedy.

In this history of superstitions and marvels, fantasies and experiments William Viney – himself a twin – shows how the use and abuse of twins has helped to shape the world in which we live. This book has been written for twins and for anyone interested in their historical, global and political impact.

William Viney is a researcher in the Department of Anthropology, Goldsmiths, University of London. His writing has appeared in *Cabinet*, *Critical Quarterly*, *frieze*, and the *Times Literary Supplement*. He is the author of *Waste: A Philosophy of Things* (2014).



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