

***Misreadings* und Eigen-Sinn
Für eine Kulturgeschichte der
Körperwahrnehmungsstörung
(Baudelaire zum Beispiel)**

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Abstract

Misreadings and “A Sense of its own”: Toward a cultural history of Body Dysmorphic Disorder in Baudelaire and Beyond

*This article explores the cultural-historical origins of what is currently categorized as Body Dysmorphic Disorder (BDD) in both public and psychological discourses. First, it traces the discursive inadequacies in speaking about the body. Focusing on bodies that elude “normal” perception and, in this sense, resist it, it is possible to speak of a sense-on-its-own (Eigen-Sinn) that emerges through their examination. Body Dysmorphic Disorder provides a productive field of inquiry due to its interdependence with media, body, and aesthetic discourse. Body Dysmorphic Disorder is first noted as such in an essay by the Italian psychologist Enrico Morselli from 1891, which is the central object of investigation. The analysis demonstrates that this phenomenon is a product of its specific time, possessing symptomatic qualities that are also reflected in the poetics of late 19th-century as for instance in Charles Baudelaire’s *Le Peintre de la vie moderne* (1863).*

Keywords: medical humanities; dysmorphophobia; body; Baudelaire.