



Garments of Paradise: Wearable Discourse in the Digital Age

By Susan Elizabeth Ryan

MIT Press Ltd. Hardback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Garments of Paradise: Wearable Discourse in the Digital Age, Susan Elizabeth Ryan, Wearable technology -- whether a Walkman in the 1970s, an LED-illuminated gown in the 2000s, or Google Glass today -- makes the wearer visible in a technologically literate environment. Twenty years ago, wearable technology reflected cultural preoccupations with cyborgs and augmented reality; today, it reflects our newer needs for mobility and connectedness. In this book, Susan Elizabeth Ryan examines wearable technology as an evolving set of ideas and their contexts, always with an eye on actual wearables -- on clothing, dress, and the histories and social relations they represent. She proposes that wearable technologies comprise a pragmatics of enhanced communication in a social landscape. "Garments of paradise" is a reference to wearable technology's promise of physical and mental enhancements. Ryan defines "dress acts" -- hybrid acts of communication in which the behavior of wearing is bound up with the materiality of garments and devices -- and focuses on the use of digital technology as part of such systems of meaning. She connects the ideas of dress and technology historically, in terms of major discourses of art and culture, and...



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