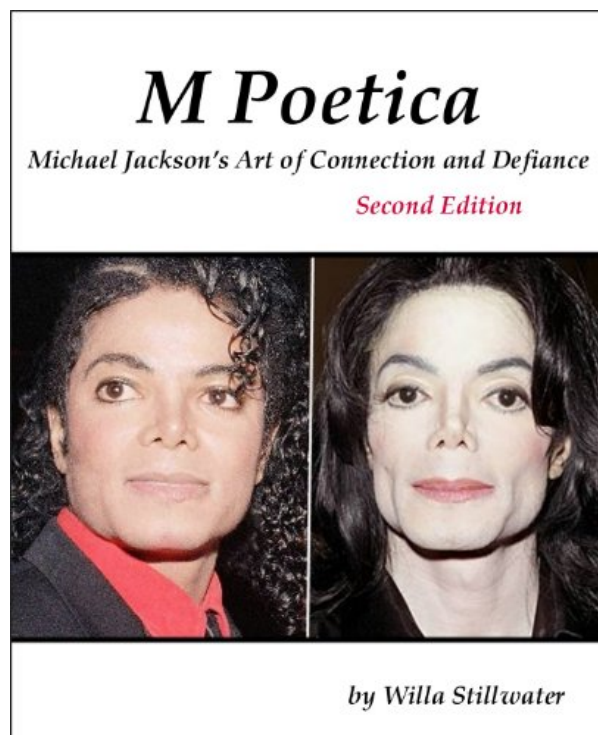


# M POETICA: MICHAEL JACKSON'S ART OF CONNECTION AND DEFIANCE, SECOND EDITION BY WILLA STILLWATER



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# *M Poetica*

*Michael Jackson's Art of Connection and Defiance*

*Second Edition*



*by Willa Stillwater*

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### Review

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### About the Author

Willa Stillwater has a Ph.D. in English. Her doctoral research focused on the ways in which cultural narratives (such as racism) are made real for us by being "written" on our bodies, and she sees this concept as an important element of Michael Jackson's work - part of what he called social conditioning. She has been a Michael Jackson fan since she was nine years old.

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## **PDF**

M Poetica shows that, through his work, Michael Jackson himself answered some of the most troubling questions surrounding him. Why did his skin become so pale? He explains why in his work. What was behind the plastic surgery scandal? He explains that as well. He wasn't just creating compelling songs, videos, and dance moves. He was creating a new poetics, meaning a new theory about the scope, function, and power of art.

M Poetica asserts that Michael Jackson was a major artist, surpassing Warhol in the reach of his artistic understanding, the importance of his ideas, and the deep cultural shifts he helped bring about - particularly the way we think about and experience racial differences. But he was an artist unlike any we've ever seen before, and we need new tools and a new approach to understand him and fully appreciate his work. M Poetica provides those tools and, through close analysis of his lyrics and visual art, reveals his intelligence, his humor, his passion, and his revolutionary ideas about the transformative power of art. It also provides fresh interpretations of some of his most interesting videos, including Thriller, Scream, Ghosts, The Way You Make Me Feel, Billie Jean, Beat It, Bad, Jam, Blood on the Dance Floor, Smooth Criminal, Earth Song, and Stranger in Moscow.

This second edition of M Poetica includes some information and images that weren't available when the first edition was published. It also includes full bibliographic information, including weblinks to online sources, and an index of additional analysis of Michael Jackson's songs, albums, videos, films, poems, and essays at Dancing with the Elephant, a blog devoted to exploring his art, his ideas about art, and his deep cultural impact.

- Sales Rank: #990420 in eBooks
- Published on: 2013-01-05
- Released on: 2013-01-05
- Format: Kindle eBook

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#### Most helpful customer reviews

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Brilliant mind, intelligent connections, fascinating subject

By Viking Spirit

Dr. Willa Stillwater has an incredibly practical yet insightful point of view regarding the complex subject of Michael Jackson the artist, the ground-breaker, the humanitarian, the symbol of all that has gone terribly wrong with celebrity culture and tabloid journalism in this country. The telling aspect is that she was not able to get publishers interested in a positive book about Jackson and needed to self-publish in order to be heard.

Many others have also done this, but her book is exceptional: really a thoughtful and academic attempt to cut through the hype and inaccuracies to show the man himself and demonstrate how seminal his art and his actions actually were. As a friend once said, Jackson looked at life from a planetary point of view, and thus set his aspirations higher than any entertainer in history, to really make a difference through his gifts. This book does a lot to show how his efforts were marginalized because he was simply a totally different sort of human being, a product of his time but also way ahead of his time. He challenged people (and inspired them) on so many levels.

The author will surprise you, just as Jackson did for an incredible 40 year career with record-breaking music sales that spanned six decades and are still charting. This book is well worth the read, especially to those who simply accepted the tabloid version of an important artist and really missed the point of his work. Highly recommended.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Great insightful read.

By Annie S

This book is interesting, academic, yet humanizing approach to Michael Jackson's persona, appearance, music and art. I've read Willa and Joie's Dancing with the Elephant blog since its inception and it helps me to better understand from where she is coming. The visual documentation of the lack of changes in his appearance were well done. The more I learn about his physical afflictions with vitiligo and lupus, the more I admire his strength. Highly recommend.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Great articles

By Iris176

I love to read the articles Mrs Stillwater wrote.

These articles give prove of her deep respect for Michael Jackson, the artist and the man!

Now, with this free download of her book, she also shows her respect to his fans and the world...

So in my humble opinion... she is a fantastic person and writer! Thanks from the bottom of my hart ...

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