

Smell is fundamental to experience but mired in paradox. Stigmatized as animalistic, it nonetheless feeds a vast fragrance industry. Considered ephemeral, scents have survived throughout the ages in a number of religious practices. *The Smell Culture Reader* provides a much-needed overview of what is arguably our most elusive sense.

From hygiene to aromatherapy, the fetid to the fragrant, smells are shown to be much more than just an adornment or a nuisance. Addressing this engaging sense in redolent detail, *The Smell Culture Reader* demonstrates how essential smell is to sexuality, social status, personal identity, and cultural tradition.

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Cover photograph: Anya Gallardo,
Red on Green (1992), 10,000
fragrant English tea roses, heads laid
on a bed of thorns, size variable.

View of installation at the ICA,
London.
Photo by Edward Woodman.
Reproduced courtesy of the artist
and Lehmann Maupin Gallery,
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