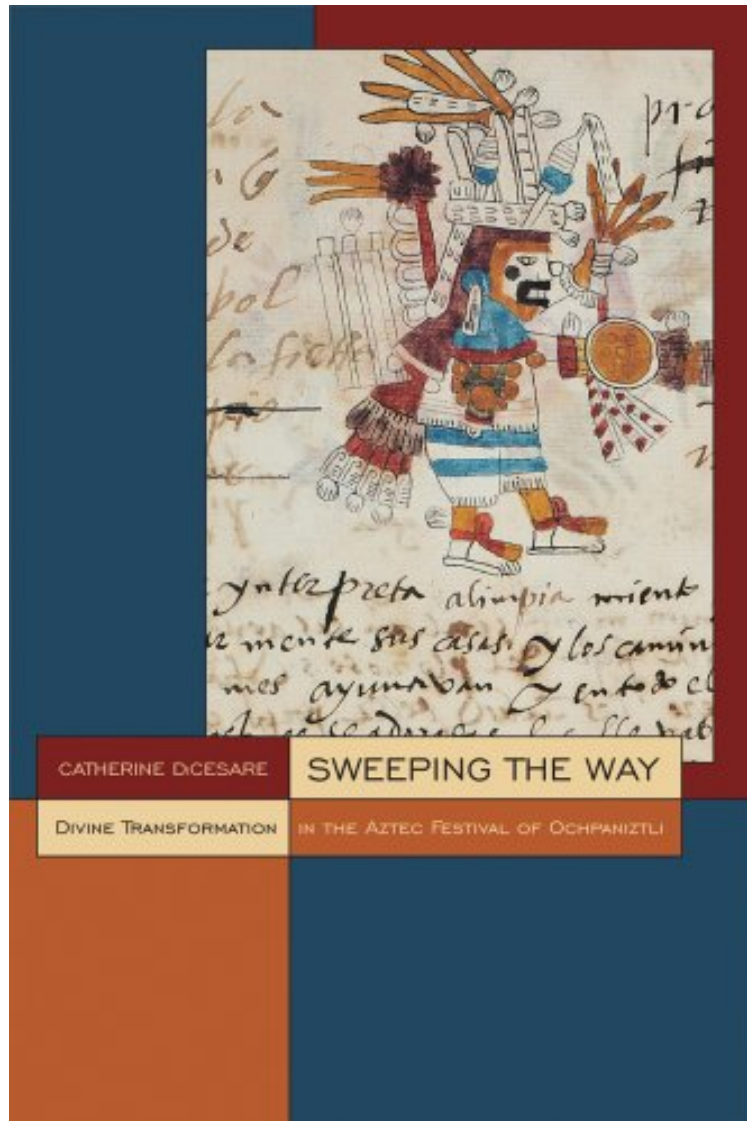


[Ebook pdf] Sweeping the Way: Divine Transformation in the Aztec Festival of Ochpaniztli (Mesoamerican Worlds)

Sweeping the Way: Divine Transformation in the Aztec Festival of Ochpaniztli (Mesoamerican Worlds)

Catherine DiCesare

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Catherine DiCesare : Sweeping the Way: Divine Transformation in the Aztec Festival of Ochpaniztli (Mesoamerican Worlds) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sweeping the Way: Divine Transformation in the Aztec Festival of Ochpaniztli (Mesoamerican Worlds):

Incorporating human sacrifice, flaying, and mock warfare, the pre-Columbian Mexican ceremony known as Ochpaniztli, or Sweeping, has long attracted attention. Although among the best known of eighteen annual ceremonies, Ochpaniztlis significance has nevertheless been poorly understood. Ochpaniztli is known mainly from early colonial illustrated manuscripts produced in cross-cultural collaboration between Spanish missionary-chroniclers and native Mexican informants and artists. Although scholars typically privilege the manuscripts textual descriptions, *Sweeping the Way* examines the fundamental role of their pictorial elements, which significantly expand the information contained in the texts. DiCesare emphasizes the primacy of the regalia, ritual implements, and adornments of the patron goddess as the point of intersection between sacred, cosmic forces and ceremonial celebrants. The associations of these paraphernalia indicate that Ochpaniztli was a period of purification rituals, designed to transform and protect individual and communal bodies alike. Spanish friars were unable to apprehend the complex nature of the festivals patroness, ultimately fragmenting her identity into categories meeting their expectations, which continues to vex modern investigations. Taken together, the variety of Ochpaniztli sources offer a useful tool for addressing myriad issues of translation and transformation in pre-Columbian and post-conquest Mexico, as Christian friars and native Mexicans together negotiated a complex body of information about outlawed ritual practices and proscribed sacred entities.

"In this well-written and well-focused book, Catherine DiCesare proposes interesting alternative interpretations of pictorial documentation and at times offers support for some less-popular existing interpretations. She does a most commendable job of capturing the essence and complexity of the monthly drama of Ochpaniztli, and her careful and insightful analyses can be used as a model for understanding other such religious celebrations." -Frances F. Berdan, *Journal of Anthropological Research*, vol. 66 2010

About the Author Catherine DiCesare is an assistant professor of art history at Colorado State University. Her specialty is pre-Columbian art history/arts of the Americas, with research focusing on the conquest period in central Mexico.