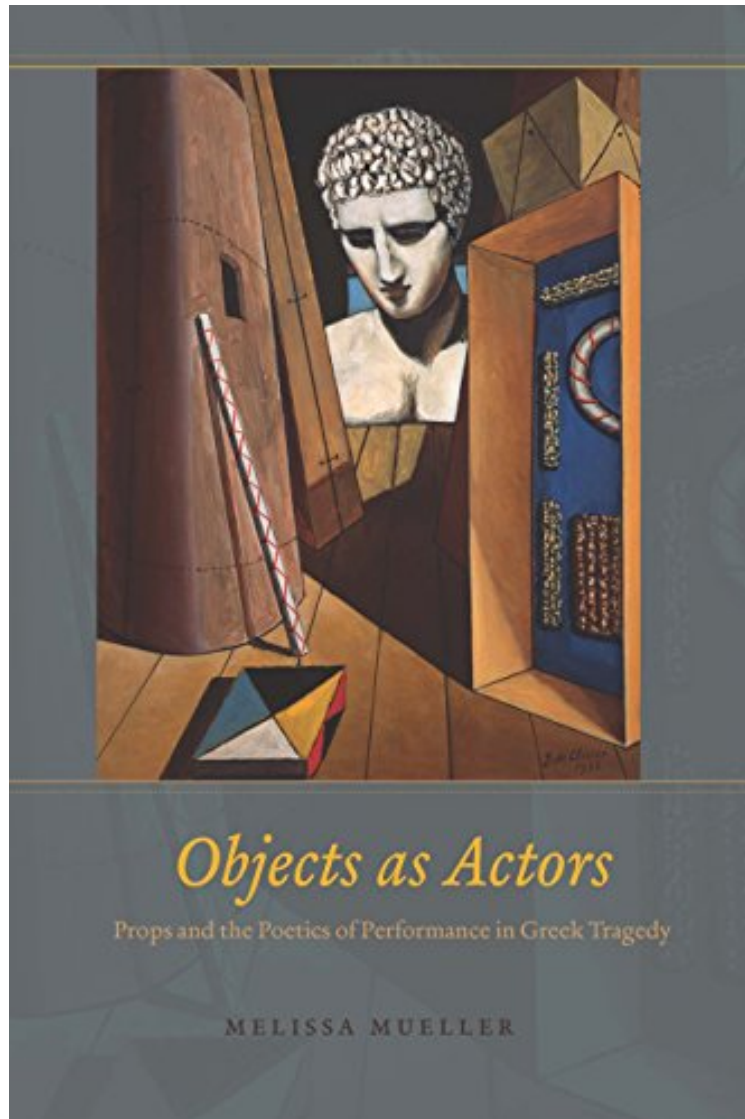


# Objects as Actors: Props and the Poetics of Performance in Greek Tragedy

*Melissa Mueller*

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**Melissa Mueller : Objects as Actors: Props and the Poetics of Performance in Greek Tragedy** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Objects as Actors: Props and the Poetics of Performance in Greek Tragedy:

Objects as Actors charts a new approach to Greek tragedy based on an obvious, yet often overlooked, fact: Greek

tragedy was meant to be performed. As plays, the works were incomplete without physical items—theatrical props. In this book, Melissa Mueller ingeniously demonstrates the importance of objects in the staging and reception of Athenian tragedy. As Mueller shows, props such as weapons, textiles, and even letters were often fully integrated into a play's action. They could provoke surprising plot turns, elicit bold viewer reactions, and provide some of tragedy's most thrilling moments. Whether the sword of Sophocles's Ajax, the tapestry in Aeschylus's Agamemnon, or the tablet of Euripides's Hippolytus, props demanded attention as a means of uniting—or disrupting—time, space, and genre. Insightful and original, *Objects as Actors* offers a fresh perspective on the central tragic texts—and encourages us to rethink ancient theater as a whole.

"Overall, this short, tightly-argued read is brimming with innovative ideas. Mueller engages with a wide array of props and tragedies, exploring props' semiotic and dramaturgical possibilities.... This book will greatly aid anyone working on Greek tragedy and performance theory, yet will also delight and challenge a more general audience."