In *The Portrait Bust and French Cultural Politics in the Eighteenth Century*, Ronit Milano probes the rich and complex aesthetic and intellectual charge of a remarkably concise art form, and explores its role as a powerful agent of epistemological change during one of the most seismic moments in French history. The pre-Revolutionary portrait bust was inextricably tied to the formation of modern selfhood and to the construction of individual identity during the Enlightenment, while positioning both sitters and viewers as part of a collective of individuals who together formed French society. In analyzing the contribution of the portrait bust to the construction of interiority and the formulation of new gender roles and political ideals, this book touches upon a set of concerns that constitute the very core of our modernity.

**Biographical note**
Dr. Ronit Milano is a faculty member in the Department of the Arts, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel. She has published several articles on the French pre-Revolutionary portrait bust, and is currently writing a book on contemporary art installations in eighteenth-century sites.

**Readership**
All interested in eighteenth-century French art, intellectual history, gender history, history of childhood, visual culture and Ancien Régime politics, and anyone concerned with the formation of modern selfhood or with sculptural portraiture.

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