



JACKY BOWRING

A FIELD GUIDE TO  
MELANCHOLY

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# A FIELD GUIDE TO MELANCHOLY

Dr. JACKY BOWRING

**new title**

## MARKETING & SALES POINTS:

- Popular psychology meets cultural theory
- A new approach to a pervasive human condition
- Will appeal to people interested in a variety of subjects from cinema and photography to philosophy and cultural studies
- Includes coverage of many 'cult' cultural figures such as Nick Cave, Andrei Tarkovsky, Iain Sinclair
- Has both academic interest (ie it could well end up on student reading lists) and general appeal
- Review coverage planned for the major broadsheets
- Burton's classic *The Anatomy of Melancholy* features in Philip Pullman's recent 'list of books that shaped his writing' for Waterstone's



## DESCRIPTION:

A depressive illness or a passing feeling? Mental detachment or a precursor to genius? Melancholy is a critical part of what it is to be human, yet everything from Prozac to self help psychology books seems intent on removing all signs of sadness from contemporary existence. Complex and contradictory, melancholy's presence weaves through the histories of both science and art.

*A Field Guide to Melancholy* surveys this ambivalent concept and takes a journey through its articulation in a variety of languages, from the Russian toska of Pushkin's *Eugene Onegin*, to kaiho – which is expressed in the dancing of the Finnish tango. Melancholy is found in the historic traditions of death's presence in paradise, the tears of nature, along with nostalgia, pathos, and melancholy's presiding god, Saturn. In contemporary society, melancholy becomes a fashion statement in the subculture of the Emo.

By drawing on a range of disciplines from psychology and philosophy to architecture and design, and by examining the work of creative figures as different as Ingmar Bergman, Albrecht Dürer, WG Sebald and Tom Waits, Jacky Bowring provides an original perspective on one of the most elusive, enigmatic and fascinating of human conditions.

## BIOGRAPHY:

**Dr. Jacky Bowring** is a critic, designer and writer. She is Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture at Lincoln University in New Zealand, and has published widely on landscape and architecture, working with ideas from psychoanalysis, literary theory, and aesthetic conventions such as the Picturesque and the Sublime.