

Librería
Bonilla y Asociados
desde 1950



Título:

Autor:

Precio: \$280.00

Editorial:

Año: 2007

Tema:

Edición: 1ª

Sinopsis

ISBN: 9780816652662

Networks of Desire_the second volume in the Mechademia series, an annual forum devoted to critical and creative work on Japanese anime, manga, and the fan cultures that have coalesced around them_explores the varieties of desire that structure and influence much of contemporary anime and manga in manifestations that range from the explicitly sexual to more sublimated text and imagery. Collecting original essays by scholars, artists, and fans, Networks of Desire considers key issues at play in a Japanese society increasingly uncertain of its place in a globalized world: from idealized representations of same-sex desire in such shōjo manga (girls's comics) as *The Rose of Versailles*, to fan fiction inspired by the gender-switching manga *Ranma ½*, to desire in otaku communities.

Deftly weaving together desire and discourse, Mechademia 2 illuminates the techno-carnal fantasies, animalistic consumption, political nostalgia, and existential hunger underlying the most popular and influential expressions of Japanese popular culture today.

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