



Cratinus and the Art of Comedy

Emmanuela Bakola

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Cratinus, one of the lost great poets of fifth-century Athenian comedy, had a formative influence on the comic genre, including Aristophanes himself. Using a methodologically innovative approach, Emmanuela Bakola studies the surviving fragments of Cratinus' plays and offers a thorough analysis of the multifaceted art of this poet and his place in the history of comedy. Issues which she addresses include the creation of a poetic personality within a performative tradition of fierce interpoetic rivalry; the play at the boundaries of the comic genre and the interaction with satyr drama and tragedy, especially Aeschylus; stagecraft and dramaturgy; comic plot-construction and characterization; the author's reflection on his immediate political, social and intellectual context. As well as providing insight into Cratinus, her book enriches our understanding of fifth-century Athenian comedy in a dynamic evolving environment.

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