

Virtual Symphony and Virtual Church:
Considering the Importance of Bodily Presence

Hannah Lyn Venable, Ph.D.

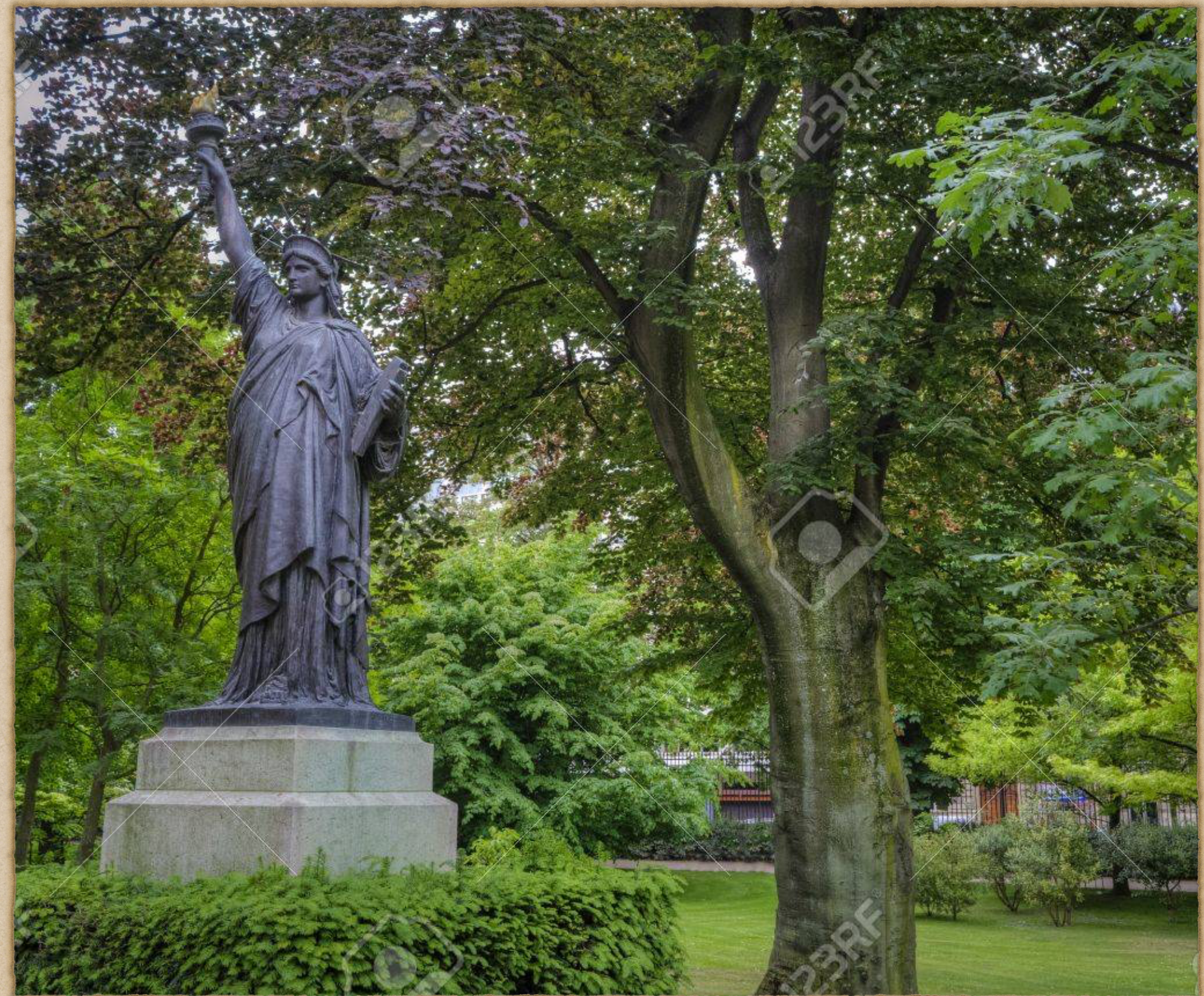
THE
AUSTIN
SYMPHONY

A large, elegant black flourish that starts from the right side of the word 'SYMPHONY', loops upwards and to the right, then curves back down and to the left, crossing itself and ending in a small hook.

Introduction

Presence in Art

- ◆ Work of art vs. Aesthetic object



Presence in Art

- ◆ “A rose in a poem can be something that is present to us in this way, but not, in most cases, a rose in a seedsman’s catalogue”
- Gabriel Marcel



Presence in Art



Presence in Liturgy

- ◆ Liturgy as “the logic that governs the encounter between the human and God.” -Jean-Yves Lacoste
- ◆ Intensive liturgy vs. Extensive liturgy

Liturgy as Art

- ◆ “The practice of the liturgy means that by the help of grace, under the guidance of the Church, we grow into living works of art before God, with no other aim or purpose than that of living and existing in His sight.” -Romano Guardini

Liturgy as Bodily

- ◆ Liturgical practices are “heavily dependent upon the senses — not just the mind — and thus the arts.” - Bruce Ellis Benson
- ◆ “Liturgy is not just about eucharistic participation, but it is a fully embodied experience that engages the whole human being in a meaningful world.” -Christina Gschwandtner



Liturgy as Communal

- ◆ leitourgia: work (ergon) of the people (leitōs).

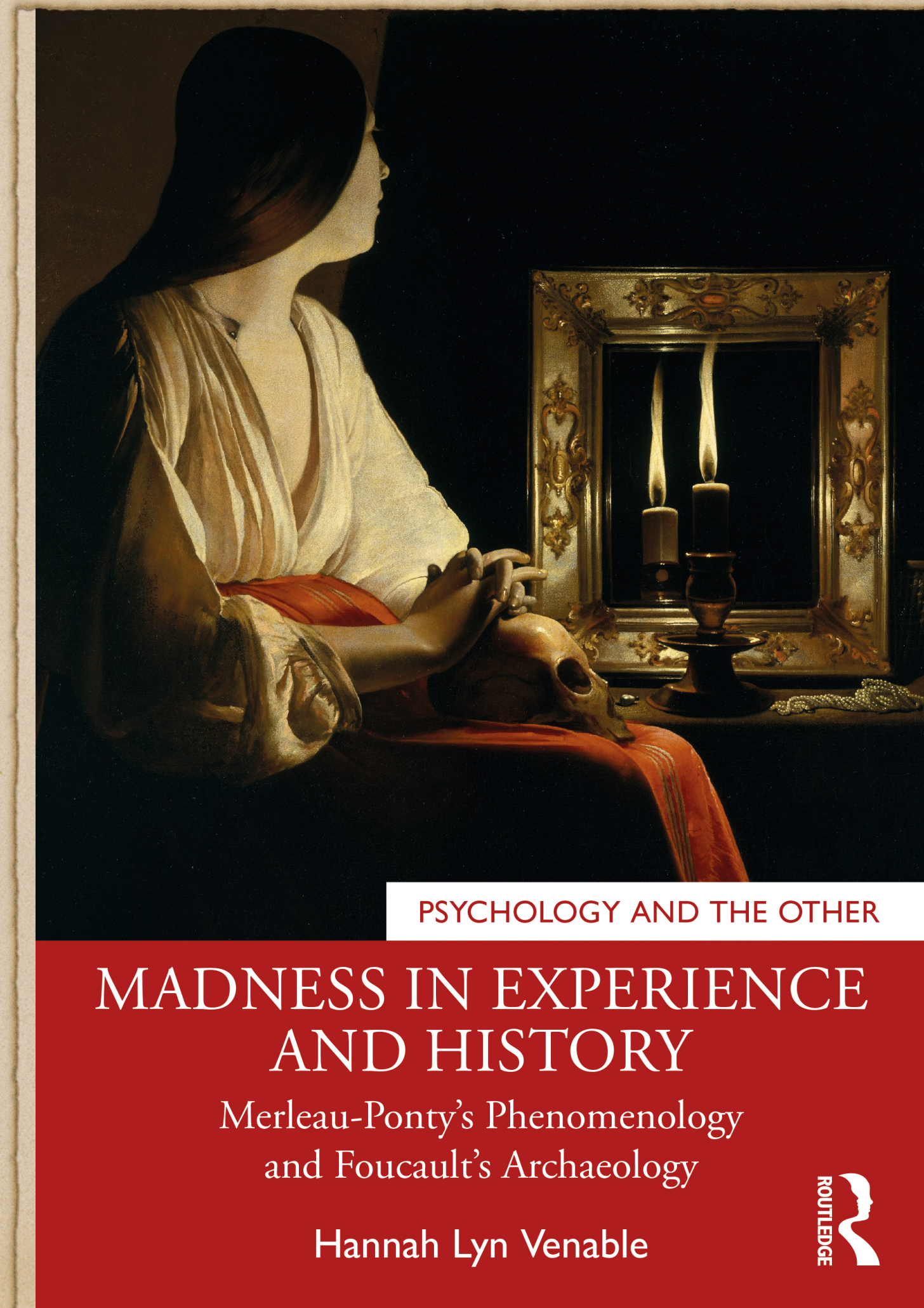


The Case for Bodily Presence



More Information

- ◆ For a longer version of this presentation, see this article:
 - ◆ “The Weight of Bodily Presence in Art and Liturgy.”
Religions 12, no. 3: 164 (2021): 1-14.
- ◆ For more on bodily presence in mental disorders, see my new book! It is published in the *Psychology and the Other Book* series:
 - ◆ *Madness in Experience and History: Merleau-Ponty's Phenomenology and Foucault's Archaeology.*
**Now available on Routledge and Amazon for pre-order.



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