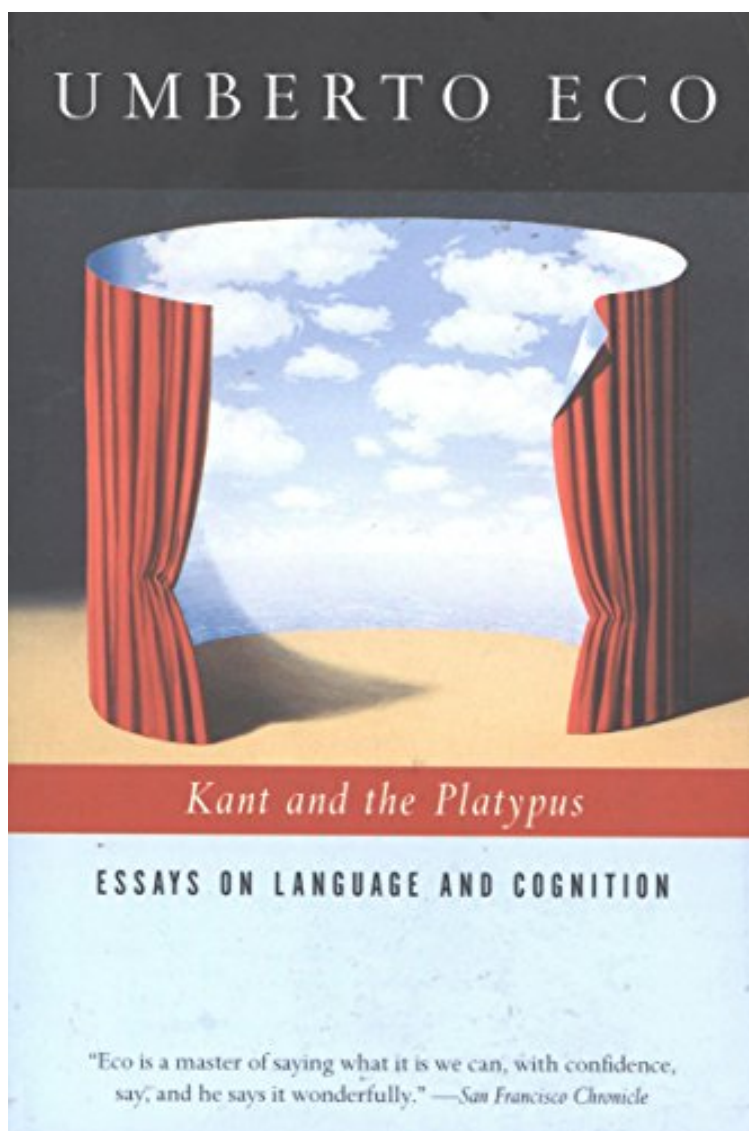


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Kant and the Platypus: Essays on Language and Cognition (English Edition)



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Description : Description du produitHow do we know that a cat is a cat? Why do we agree on calling the beast a cat? Interesting questions, but an even more intriguing question lies at the heart of all modern philosophy-how much of our perception of things depends on our cognitive ability and how much on linguistic resources? At this point semiotics becomes inextricably linked to epistemology, or cognition. In these essays, Umberto Eco explores in depth such subjects as perception, the relationship between language and experience, and iconism that he only touched on in A Theory of Semiotics. Forgoing a formal, systematic treatment, Eco engages in a series of explorations based on common sense, from which flow an abundance of illustrative fables, often with animals as protagonists. Among the characters, a position of prominence is reserved for the platypus, which appears to have been created specifically to "put the cat

among the pigeons" as far as many theories of knowledge are concerned. In *Kant and the Platypus*, Eco shares with us a wealth of ideas at once philosophical and amusing.

Prsentation de l'diteurHow do we know a cat is a cat... and why do we call it a cat? An intriguing and often fascinating look at words, perceptions, and the relationship between them (Newark Star-Ledger). In *Kant and the Platypus*, the renowned semiotician, philosopher, and bestselling author of *The Name of the Rose* and *Foucault's Pendulum* explores the question of how much of our perception of things is based on cognitive ability, and how much on linguistic resources. In six remarkable essays, Umberto Eco explores in depth questions of reality, perception, and experience. Basing his ideas on common sense, Eco shares a vast wealth of literary and historical knowledge, touching on issues that affect us every day. At once philosophical and amusing, *Kant and the Platypus* is a tour of the world of our senses, told by a master of knowing what is real and what is not. An erudite, detailed inquiry into the philosophy of mind... Here, Eco is continental philosopher, semiotician, and cognitive scientist rolled all into one. *Library Journal* (starred review)