

TRANSLATOR'S FOREWORD

As many translators echo in their forewords, I have tried to remain as faithful to the original text as possible. English is not Italian, nor Italian English. The choice of words, their placement, and their various synonyms can give any parsed phrase entirely different meanings. I have done my best to produce a translation with a fidelity that is as close to the meaning that Balistreri intends in his original text. Regardless, this is no replacement for the original version, and if possible, I would encourage the capable reader to choose that version over this one. A close translation is still far from perfect. Yet it is my hope that by reading this first or alongside the original Italian, the reader will familiarize themselves with Balistreri's philosophy on this both immanent and timely subject. As a consequence, the reader will more easily insert themselves in the wider debate on sex robots and their many sociopolitical and philosophical issues.

Tackling any new philosophical debate can seem daunting, and for good reason. Many contemporary philosophical debates draw on historical precedent and traditions that, at least in the Western world, span over two thousand years. It is not uncommon to see names and jargon used wantonly and without explanation, turning off novices to the topic (let alone those who have only a passing interest) and those who could ultimately be central stakeholders in any given philosophical debate. But this book admonishes that style, favoring a more grounded

and authentic approach to practicing philosophy—one that is informed by philosophical tradition without suffocating the reader with nomenclature. If I did my job correctly, then Balistreri's work should read like a breeze, allowing the reader to easily digest complex and nuanced concepts and simultaneously begin to formulate their own positions in their minds as they read.

As a philosopher of technology, I find the topic of sex robots and their ethical implications of intellectual curiosity. But this work is much more than that. As a citizen in the twenty-first century world, I find these pages moving and at times haunting, as Balistreri unabashedly questions our place among these kinds of machines. It makes you ask yourself “would I?” over and over again.