



Mechademia 5: Fanthropologies

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Passionate fans of anime and manga, known in Japan as *otaku* and active around the world, play a significant role in the creation and interpretation of this pervasive popular culture. Routinely appropriating and remixing favorite characters, narratives, imagery, and settings, *otaku* take control of the anime characters they consume.

Fanthropologies-the fifth volume in the *Mechademia* series, an annual forum devoted to Japanese anime and manga-focuses on fans, fan activities, and the *otaku* phenomenon. The zones of activity discussed in these essays range from fan-sub (fan-subtitled versions of anime and manga) and copyright issues to gender and nationality in fandom, dolls, and other forms of consumption that fandom offers. Individual pieces include a remarkable photo essay on the emerging art of cosplay photography; an original manga about an obsessive doll-fan; and a tour of Akihabara, Tokyo's discount electronics shopping district, by a scholar disguised as a fuzzy animal.

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