



After Modern Art, 1945-2000

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Modern and contemporary art can be both baffling and beautiful; it can also be innovative, political, and disturbing. This book sets out to provide the first concise interpretation of the period as a whole, clarifying the artists and their works along the way. Closely informed by new critical approaches, it concentrates on the relationship between American and European art from the end of the Second World War to the eve of the new millennium.

Jackson Pollock, Jasper Johns, Yves Klein, Andy Warhol, Louise Bourgeois, Cindy Sherman, and Damien Hirst are among many artists discussed, with careful attention being given to the political and cultural worlds they inhabited. Moving along a clear timeline, the author highlights key movements such as Abstract Expressionism, Pop Art, Minimalism, Conceptualism, Postmodernism, and performance art to explain the theoretical and issue-based debates that have provided the engine for the art of this period.

After Modern Art, 1945-2000 Details

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Stephen says

Again, I like these Oxford History of Art. A great survey to understand how the art world has come to be how it is.

Courtney says

I'm just starting this book to begin my own personal Contemporary Art 101 class, and it's really well-written thus far. I like that it has Matthew Barney on the cover, even if he is a pretentious douchebag married to Bjork, as his Cremaster Cycle 1 is perhaps the most amazing thing I've ever seen on film. Hopefully this book will school me on what I need to know about les artistes et leurs oeuvres. Heh heh! Update to follow.

Update: this book is great, albeit a bit scholarly for a "bus read." Nonetheless, I feel like I'm getting in some good artsy learning before I start school. I highly recommend it.

Carl says

Well, if you have a strong background in Art History this book will build on that knowledge. Not really recommended if you are new to contemporary art. It feels at times like you need to be on the inside circle to understand all references being made in the book.

Kate says

There are so few introductions to contemporary art, that you almost have to give any book written five stars just by virtue of its being published. To understand what is currently in art galleries, it helps to have the background of what has gone on since World War II in art culture. This book tends to be focused on the western art world, but a good introduction to that.

Susan says

Good reference book about contemporary art movements.

Luisa says

The author was my professor at the University of Glasgow. He is a genius.

Barry says

A pretty good broad overview of the art of the times.

It's the text for a contemporary art course that I am teaching.

Nativeabuse says

Interesting book, not well written, but the art displayed inside is a good selection.

Dora says

As an art history student, this book proved immensely useful as this is the type of knowledge that is expected of me. Of course, this doesn't mean that I have to like everything I read and learnt from the book, but I am obliged to understand it. My decision to buy After Modern Art was partly influenced by my wanting to give modern and postmodern art a second chance since neither have impressed me very much in the past. Hopkins pleasantly surprised me quite a few times throughout the book with his theories and explanations, while he seemed a bit unconvincing in others. Then again, maybe I'm just a tough nut to crack.

The works and artists I found in the book are diverse, which is why I cannot give a general statement. I found some artists that truly inspired me, while there were also those who simply didn't seem like they knew what they were doing. What I liked about Hopkins is that he was very objective when criticizing all of their works; he stated facts, gave objective analyses, compared works to one another based on similar themes, techniques or approaches to a certain subject. All in all, he was very concise and professional.

Even though it seems as though I will have to reread the book at least one more time to fully understand it, it will be worth it. Most of my prejudices towards modern and postmodern art have disappeared thanks to this wonderful book and I hope the ones that are left over will too after the second reading.

Curt Bozif says

Hopkins kind of gives up after about 1985. See work by Lane Relyea if you're curious what's been happening since then.

Safoura says

Was a good help for me figuring out the modern art

Marvin Arevalo says

Read and re-read

CM says

An advanced survey text on art movements after WWII, from Duchamp to Matthew Barney (on the cover). The scope is the usual combination of the USA and Europe with a focus on the relevant historical context, particularly on art theories and socio-political factors. It's also a rare work that tries to cover the last two decades of the 20th century.

However, given the subject matter and its scope (and the difficulty of writing recent history), the text, in particular the last two chapters, may appear to be more disjointed but the author's attempt to bridge and contextualise such diverse practices is much appreciated. Yet, you may want to keep your smartphone close as the texts cover substantially more than the photographs shown.

And this memorable phrase :
"The unifying principle of gravity"

Kay says

The perfect introduction to art history. An excellent survey for students and lay readers alike. Thorough and not patronizing. Well illustrated. Read it!

Rebecca says

Anyone who has ever looked at a weird piece of modern art and wondered what was going through the artist's mind should read this book. It gives a general overview of modern art up until the present day and is written in a really enlivening style. The author puts every major work of modern and contemporary art in its proper artistic and historical context so that even the most pedestrian art viewer can understand the importance and meaning of each piece.
