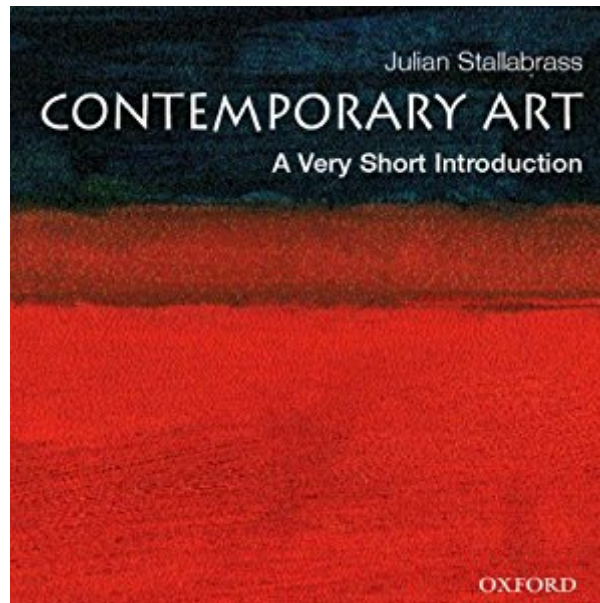




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Contemporary Art: A Very Short Introduction



Synopsis

Contemporary art has never been so popular - but what is 'contemporary' about contemporary art? What is its role today, and who is controlling its future? Bloody toy soldiers, gilded shopping carts, and embroidered tents. Contemporary art is supposed to be a realm of freedom where artists shock, break taboos, flout generally received ideas, and switch between confronting viewers with works of great emotional profundity and jaw-dropping triviality. But away from shock tactics in the gallery, there are many unanswered questions. Who is really running the art world? What effect has America's growing political and cultural dominance had on art? Julian Stallabrass takes us inside the international art world to answer these and other controversial questions, and to argue that behind contemporary art's variety and apparent unpredictability lies a grim uniformity. Its mysteries are all too easily explained, its depths much shallower than they seem. Contemporary art seeks to bamboozle its viewers while being the willing slave of business and government. This audiobook is your antidote and will change the way you see contemporary art. ABOUT THE SERIES: The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These audiobooks are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly listenable.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Focuses too much on the relationship between art and economics instead of showing us the actual

art.

Very polemic.... I found myself spending time on searching for words in vocabulary twice as much as usual, as English is not my first language. Could've been written in a more simple language indeed. But has interesting views and points. Would recommend to a friend. Agree with the previous reviews, that the book is not much of a "Contemporary art Introduction", as an essay on how art is juxtaposed with economy, money etc.

It's like a good refresher course in art history. I led the format of the book great for reference purposes.

Powerful, cogent and critical but certainly reductionist account of contemporary art.

excellent, lucid, super well written & detailed look at contemporary art, asks tough questions, unromantic view, informed by marxist/materialist outlook. looks at the internationalization of the art scene as well.

This is an excellent little book! Not much of an introduction as it assumes quite a lot of previous knowledge of the field; but an eye-opening Marxist analysis of the mechanics and machinations of the art world and of its myriad connections with the larger economic and political structures within which it thrives or dies. For example the paragraph that should be carved on the lintels of all art schools doors: "...the overall nature of the arts economy is generally disavowed by its participants, particularly artists, who overlook or deny their orientation toward financial reward. Artists are singularly ill-informed about their prospects for success, are prone to taking risks, are poor but come from wealthy backgrounds... and tend to subsidize their art-making out of other earnings. These features... cause the art world to be permanently over-crowded, making the poverty of artists a structural feature." Stallabrass discusses how the multi-cultural fashion in the arts serves (apart from a few third-world artists) the ideological campaign of the Neo-Liberal economy and the multi-national corporations. He touches on how academe creates one kind of artist while the market creates another. Both types are adapted to their niches in the economic structure and neither enjoys the freedom artists are generally assumed to gain in exchange for their frustration and poverty. A fascinating and eye-opening read.

This was a learned overview, but the author's Marxism comes through a little too strongly for my taste at times.

good book to read

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