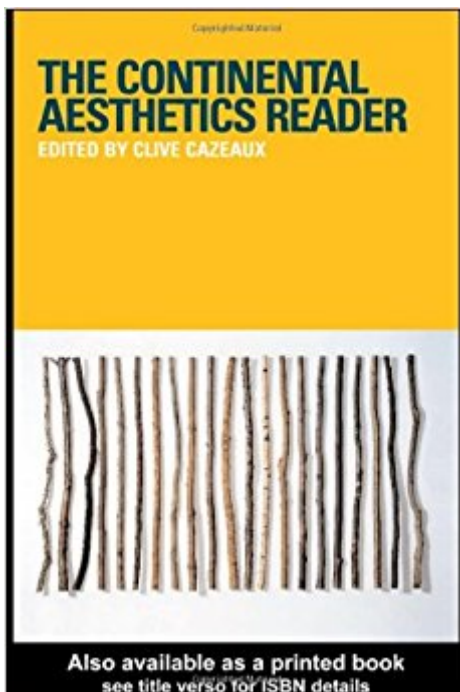


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The Continental Aesthetics Reader



Synopsis

The Continental Aesthetics Reader is the first comprehensive anthology of classic writings on art and aesthetics from the major figures in Continental thought. The reader is clearly divided into six sections: Nineteenth Century German Aesthetics * Phenomenology and Hermeneutics * Marxism and Critical Theory * Modernism * Poststructuralism and Postmodernism * Psychoanalysis and Feminism. Each section is clearly placed in its historical and philosophical context by Clive Cazeaux. The readings featured are the most widely read and representative writings of each movement and are from the following major thinkers: Kant Sartre Benjamin Lyotard Hegel Levinas Blanchot Deleuze Nietzsche Marx Bloch Freud Heidegger Lukacs Bataille Lacan Dufrenne Adorno Foucault Kristeva Bachelard Marcuse Barthes Irigaray Merleau-Ponty Habermas Derrida Cixous Gadamer Jameson de Man Vattimo Simmel Baudrillard. Ideal for introductory courses in aesthetics, continental philosophy, art and visual studies, The Continental Aesthetics Reader provides a thorough introduction to some of the most influential writings on art and aesthetics from Kant to Derrida.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

'A substantial anthology ... [the] introductions are written in an accessible manner and contain helpful biographical and contextual information there is no doubt that first year students will find this volume worth acquiring. The book also deserves to be added to the reference sections of art and philosophy libraries.' - John A Walker, The Art Book

Clive Cazeaux is a senior lecturer in Philosophy at the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff.

I fell in love with this text. This is the kind of text that the compiler doesn't necessarily write much in but you know exactly what he is talking about by the end. This book is a journey--it walks the reader through the Greeks all the way up to modern day. As such it is easy to skip around while still digging into the text pretty deeply. The essay choices were great--some of the works are hard to get in the original print. My class did subsume this with other works to fill in a few gaps in the moderns (but nothing major). I made sure to keep this book handy for every aesthetic paper I have written since.

I have not read many of the articles yet, so perhaps my complaint is limited to those I have, but I feel I have to warn readers about this edition. At least some of the translations are extremely bad. Of course, this being an anthology, the translator is different for every article, but the texts by Kant, Hegel and Derrida require you to have the original text at hand, to be certain you understand what is being said. My English may not be perfect, but neither is the English in these texts. The translations at times read like they've been passed through Google-translate, to be honest. Considering the fact that all three authors I mentioned are not exactly known for their way with words (it takes effort to figure out what they mean when reading the original texts), a literal translation, while obviously an attempt to stay close to the original, is a very delicate matter. It always is, in translation philosophical texts. A new edition of the Continental Aesthetics Reader will be published this summer (2011), and I hope this means we will see new translations. But just to be safe, see if you can get a preview of the texts I mentioned, before you buy this book.

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