



## Theories and Documents of Contemporary Art: A Sourcebook of Artists' Writings (California Studies in the History of Art)

From Brand: University of California Press

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Ambitious and interdisciplinary, this long-awaited collaboration is a landmark presentation of the writings of contemporary artists. These influential essays, interviews, and critical and theoretical comments provide bold and fertile insights into the construction of visual knowledge. Featuring a wide range of leading and emerging artists since 1945, the collection—while comprehensive and authoritative—offers the reader some eclectic surprises as well.

Included here are texts that have become pivotal documents in contemporary art, along with writings that cover unfamiliar ground. Some are newly translated, others have never before been published. Together they address visual literacy, cultural studies, and the theoretical debates regarding modernism and postmodernism. The full panoply of visual media is represented, from painting and sculpture to environments, installations, performance, conceptual art, video, photography, and virtual reality. Thematic concerns range from figuration and process to popular culture, art and technology, and politics and the media. Contemporary issues of gender, race, class, and sexuality are also addressed.

Kristine Stiles's general introduction is a succinct overview of artists' theories in the evolution of contemporary discourse around art. Introductions to each chapter provide synopses of the cultural contexts in which the texts originated and brief biographies of individual artists. The text is augmented by outstanding photographs, many of artists in their studios, and vivid, contemporary art images.

Reflecting the editors' shared belief that artists' own theories provide unparalleled access to visual knowledge, this book, like its distinguished predecessors, Hershel Chipp's *Theories of Modern Art* (with Peter Selz and Joshua Taylor) and Joshua Taylor's *Nineteenth-Century Theories of Art*, will be an invaluable resource for anyone interested in contemporary art.

"In New York in 1915 I bought at a hardware store a snow shovel on which I

wrote 'in advance of the broken arm.' It was around that time that the word 'readymade' came to mind to designate this form of manifestation."—Marcel Duchamp (1961)

"Women have always collected things and saved and recycled them because leftovers yielded nourishment in new forms. The decorative functional objects women made often spoke in a secret language, bore a covert imagery. When we read these images in needlework, in paintings, in quilts, rugs and scrapbooks, we sometimes find a cry for help, sometimes an allusion to a secret political alignment, sometimes a moving symbol about the relationships between men and women."—Miriam Schapiro and Melissa Meyer (1978)

"I want to create a fusion of art and life, Asia and America, Duchampiana modernism and Levi-Straussian savagism, cool form and hot video, dealing with all of those complex problems, spanning the tribal memory of the Nomadic Asians who crossed over the Bering Strait over 10,000 years ago."—Shigeko Kubota (1976)

"Black for me is a lot more peaceful and gentle than white. White marble may be very beautiful, but you can't read anything on it. I wanted something that would be soft on the eyes, and turn into a mirror if you polished it. The point is to see yourself reflected in the names. Also the mirror image doubles and triples the space."—Maya Lin (1983)

"Artists often depend on the manipulation of symbols to present ideas and associations not always apparent in such symbols. If all such ideas and associations were evident there would be little need for artists to give expression to them. In short, there would be no need to make art."—Andres Serrano (1989)

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## **Editorial Review**

From Library Journal

The third collection in the series that includes *Theories in Modern Art* (1968) and *Nineteenth-Century Theories of Art* (1987), this wide-ranging and comprehensive anthology of writings and statements by artists is indispensable to an understanding of postwar visual arts. Each of the nine sections ("Art and Technology," "Process," etc.) is introduced with a general overview of the artists and influences that fall within its scope. The range of artists included is impressive. Besides such well-known American artists as Andy Warhol and Robert Rauschenberg, a broad selection of non-Americans is represented, including Magdalena Abakanowicz and Georg Baselitz. The vast amount of material collected is well organized and appropriately illustrated. An extensive bibliography (on movements as well as individual artists) complements the work. Highly recommended for collections with an interest in postwar art. Martin R. Kalfatovic, Smithsonian Institution Libs., Washington, D.C.

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From the Inside Flap

"The accomplishment of this book is astounding. This book will change the way scholars think about the totality of the world of contemporary art, and it will be the essential text for generations of students to come."—Richard Shiff, University of Texas, Austin

"An indispensable resource: compendious, diverse, and in some of its unfamiliar juxtapositions, startlingly fresh."—Lisa Tickner, Middlesex University, London

"Contrary to the popular myth of the "inarticulate" artist, the literature of contemporary art is rich and varied and, until now, widely scattered. This is the most comprehensive selection of such writings available. An essential resource for scholars, it also offers the lay reader generous doses of vivid and provocative writing."—Robert Storr, Museum of Modern Art, New York

"*Theories and Documents* not only fills an important gap in the field of modern and contemporary art but is also a major contribution in its own right. It rejects narrowly stylistic or medium-defined categories and instead organizes the artists' texts in relation to broader cultural, social, and technological concerns. It deepens and complicates our knowledge of the art of our time."—Abigail Solomon-Godeau, University of California, Santa Barbara

"A very useful anthology that performs two crucial functions: it brings artists of different generations and nationalities into conversation, and it comprehends art in its new mediums, practices, and problems."—Hal Foster, Editor, *October*

"Professors Stiles and Selz have presented us with a textbook that is as indispensable as it is authoritative. It will surely be seen as the standard reference for those seeking primary sources in the complex field of contemporary art studies."—David Ross, Whitney Museum of Art, New York

From the Back Cover

"The accomplishment of this book is astounding. This book will change the way scholars think about the totality of the world of contemporary art, and it will be the essential text for generations of students to

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## **Users Review**

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The e-book untitled Theories and Documents of Contemporary Art: A Sourcebook of Artists' Writings (California Studies in the History of Art) is the e-book that recommended to you to read. You can see the quality of the guide content that will be shown to a person. The language that creator use to explained their ideas are easily to understand. The author was did a lot of research when write the book, so the information that they share to you personally is absolutely accurate. You also will get the e-book of Theories and Documents of Contemporary Art: A Sourcebook of Artists' Writings (California Studies in the History of Art) from the publisher to make you much more enjoy free time.

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On this era which is the greater man or woman or who has ability to do something more are more valuable than other. Do you want to become among it? It is just simple method to have that. What you have to do is just spending your time very little but quite enough to enjoy a look at some books. Among the books in the top listing in your reading list is definitely Theories and Documents of Contemporary Art: A Sourcebook of Artists' Writings (California Studies in the History of Art). This book that is qualified as The Hungry Inclines can get you closer in turning out to be precious person. By looking upwards and review this book you can get many advantages.

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