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The Photograph As Contemporary Art (World Of Art)



Synopsis

“Essential reading for anyone who wishes to make sense of the complex . . . world of contemporary art photography.”

Picture Professional In the 21st century photography has come of age as a contemporary art form. Nearly two centuries after photographic technology was first invented, the art world has fully embraced it as a legitimate medium, equal in status to painting and sculpture. This book provides an introduction to contemporary art-photography, identifying its most important features and themes and celebrating its exciting pluralism through an overview of its most important and innovative practitioners. The work of nearly 250 photographers is reproduced, from established artists such as Isa Genzken, Jeff Wall, Sophie Calle, Thomas Demand, Nan Goldin, and Sherrie Levine to emerging talents such Walead Beshty, Jason Evans, Lucas Blalock, Sara VanDerBeek, and Viviane Sassen. This new edition brings the story of contemporary art photography up to date with a revised introduction outlining the evolution of photography from documentary tool to art form, and an updated final chapter focusing on the younger generation of artists who emphasize the technical and material properties of photography, employ it as part of a wider pan-media practice, or respond to evolving new modes of dissemination in the digital age. 249 illustrations, 212 in color

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Charlotte Cotton is Department Head & Curator of the Wallis Annenberg Photography Department

at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

Very important to be aware of trends in photography and art. This book is a treasure chest of old and new ideas. For those artists who want to create new art and not just repeat the history of art, this book is invaluable.

The author classifies a large range of artists in a well developed spectrum, the understanding and approach she offers to each style is fascinating. The concepts presented really made a turnaround on the way I shoot now, for the better (I think). A must have for those who are beyond shooting weddings, kids and puppies.

Great read- Gives You direction as to the different genres Of photography. Talks about different Famous photographers and their styles of shooting.

Great Buy I'm very happy with my purchase.

Amazing

I'm currently working on my MFA in Studio Art Photography and this is MUST read. It's contemporary dialogue about photography as art but it delves into sociological as well as technological components associated with this medium.

This author is incredibly insightful. She puts into words the things that I can not when it comes to photo appreciation.

UPDATE JANUARY 2010: My review of the "first (2004) edition" is given verbatim below. In the next paragraph I compare the first edition and the "second (2009) edition. The first 217 pages of the 2nd ed. are different in only minor ways from the first 217 pages of the 1st ed.* However, pages 218-241 in the 2nd ed. contain a new final chapter 8, "Physical and Mental," discussing photographic works for which "the very nature of the medium is part of the narrative of the work." Among other topics, chapter 8 covers appropriation (e.g., rephotographing photographs); analog versus digital photography; and photographs in sculptures, collages, multimedia installations, books, and Web sites. Artists discussed in this chapter include James Welling, Isa Genzken, Walead

Beshty, Zoe Leonard, An-My Le, Ed Ruscha, Rinko Kawauchi, and others. The writing style is similar to the first seven chapters, and is again of high quality. The "Further Reading" list on pages 242-243 in the 2nd ed. has references as recent as 2009. In conclusion, if you own the 1st ed., you MAY wish to replace it with the 2nd ed., but it's not an absolute must.* In specific, p.10 has a new paragraph summarizing the new final chapter, material on Sherrie Levine has been moved from p.214 to the new final chapter, and the paragraph on Vibeke Tandberg on p.217 is slightly reworded.---

DECEMBER 14, 2004, REVIEW OF FIRST (2004) EDITION FOLLOWS ---This information-packed paperback, which is relatively small for an art book, has an Introduction and seven chapters. The Intro specifies that the book is a "the kind of overview you might experience if you visited exhibitions in a range of venues." After summarizing the chapters, the Intro concludes with descriptions of photographers who are "figureheads" or "cornerstones" of contemporary artistic photography: Eggleston, Shore, the Bechers, Keita, Goldblatt, and Meatyard. Chapter 1, "If This Is Art," covers photos for which the artist has created an event prior to the shutter's being released. Among the artists discussed are Philip-Lorca diCorcia and Erwin Wurm. As a small problem, three of the photographs are reproduced at a rather small size (

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