



What Was Contemporary Art? (MIT Press)

By Richard Meyer

Download now

Read Online →

What Was Contemporary Art? (MIT Press) By Richard Meyer

Contemporary art in the early twenty-first century is often discussed as if the very idea of art that is contemporary is new. Yet all works of art were once contemporary. In *What Was Contemporary Art?* Richard Meyer reclaims the contemporary from historical amnesia, and gives the contemporary its own art history. By exploring episodes in the study, exhibition, and reception of early twentieth-century art and visual culture, Meyer retrieves moments in the history of once-current art and redefines "the contemporary" as a condition of being alive to and alongside other moments, artists, and objects.

A generous selection of images, many in color -- from works of fine art to museum brochures and magazine covers -- support and extend Meyer's narrative. These works were contemporary to their own moment. Now, in Meyer's account, they become contemporary to ours as well.

↓ [Download What Was Contemporary Art? \(MIT Press\) ...pdf](#)

📄 [Read Online What Was Contemporary Art? \(MIT Press\) ...pdf](#)

What Was Contemporary Art? (MIT Press)

By Richard Meyer

What Was Contemporary Art? (MIT Press) By Richard Meyer

Contemporary art in the early twenty-first century is often discussed as if the very idea of art that is contemporary is new. Yet all works of art were once contemporary. In *What Was Contemporary Art?* Richard Meyer reclaims the contemporary from historical amnesia, and gives the contemporary its own art history. By exploring episodes in the study, exhibition, and reception of early twentieth-century art and visual culture, Meyer retrieves moments in the history of once-current art and redefines "the contemporary" as a condition of being alive to and alongside other moments, artists, and objects.

A generous selection of images, many in color -- from works of fine art to museum brochures and magazine covers -- support and extend Meyer's narrative. These works were contemporary to their own moment. Now, in Meyer's account, they become contemporary to ours as well.

What Was Contemporary Art? (MIT Press) By Richard Meyer Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1117668 in Books
- Brand: Brand: The MIT Press
- Published on: 2013-02-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .81" w x 7.00" l, 2.44 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 376 pages

 [Download What Was Contemporary Art? \(MIT Press\) ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online What Was Contemporary Art? \(MIT Press\) ...pdf](#)

Editorial Review

Review

In this deft and engaging account, Richard Meyer charts an entirely new path through the twentieth century to elucidate how 'the contemporary' has always been an anxious matter for art history. *What Was Contemporary Art?* is richly researched and persuasively argued, a book whose far-ranging theoretical implications are driven by an urgent attention to history. Whether looking to the past or speculating about the future, after reading Meyer's book we'll never think about contemporary art the same way again.

(Julia Bryan-Wilson, Associate Professor of Modern and Contemporary Art, University of California, Berkeley)

At a time when we are intoxicated by instant access to the present and when history seems 'passé,' it is rewarding to encounter a book like Richard Meyer's *What Was Contemporary Art?*, which goes behind the cultural branding and flattening of terms like 'modern,' 'post-modern,' and 'post-post' to bring back the full complexity of the texture of those references. By analyzing several key figures and events of American cultural life in the late twentieth century, Meyer not only makes our past history exciting, complicated, and humorous, he also shows how linked -- often unconsciously -- our present is to our past, our history. This work should and will be discussed not only by the new generation who bank on the present, but also by older generations who often...forget.

(Serge Guilbaut, Professor of Art History, Visual Art and Theory, University of British Columbia)

Amidst the clamor over the increasingly disproportionate attention to contemporary art in the field of art history, Richard Meyer draws our attention to the *history* of contemporary art -- that is, to how the terms *modern* and *contemporary* were reckoned with in the past. In the process, he uncovers unexpected stories about a Wellesley College trip to a candy factory, Persian wall frescoes shown in watercolor copies at the Museum of Modern Art, and a manifesto issued by the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston decrying modern art as chicanery. *What Was Contemporary Art?* implicitly asks, 'Just what *is* contemporary art?'

(Douglas Crimp, author of "*Our Kind of Movie*": *The Films of Andy Warhol*)

Hard-hitting critical concerns blend into the narrative, the minutia of historical debates providing an opportunity to broaden our own art-historical moment and consider its possibilities.

(*Publishers Weekly*)

If, in recent years, the notion of a 'contemporary art' has attained something approaching a stable definition, then Richard Meyer's new book... sets out to recall a time when such a consensus was not yet possible.... By harking back to debates in the US much earlier in the century, Meyer's important intervention sets out to disturb and destabilize such a neat periodization. Eschewing the more theoretical speculations of Alberro and Smith in favour of a series of engagingly written narratives drawn from the history of the contemporary in American art, Meyer follows a path that is broadly chronological but full of interesting diversions, teasing

out a series of provocative implications along the way in a tone at once warm and wry.

(Frieze)

About the Author

Richard Meyer is Robert and Ruth Halperin Professor in Art History at Stanford University. He is the author of *Outlaw Representation: Censorship and Homosexuality in Twentieth-Century American Art* and *Naked Hollywood: Weegee in Los Angeles*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Susan Chestnut:

Do you have favorite book? For those who have, what is your favorite's book? Guide is very important thing for us to find out everything in the world. Each guide has different aim or even goal; it means that publication has different type. Some people really feel enjoy to spend their a chance to read a book. They are reading whatever they consider because their hobby is actually reading a book. What about the person who don't like looking at a book? Sometime, person feel need book when they found difficult problem or exercise. Well, probably you will want this *What Was Contemporary Art?* (MIT Press).

Goldie Oleary:

Here thing why this *What Was Contemporary Art?* (MIT Press) are different and dependable to be yours. First of all looking at a book is good nevertheless it depends in the content from it which is the content is as delightful as food or not. *What Was Contemporary Art?* (MIT Press) giving you information deeper since different ways, you can find any e-book out there but there is no reserve that similar with *What Was Contemporary Art?* (MIT Press). It gives you thrill studying journey, its open up your current eyes about the thing that happened in the world which is probably can be happened around you. It is easy to bring everywhere like in park your car, café, or even in your approach home by train. When you are having difficulties in bringing the published book maybe the form of *What Was Contemporary Art?* (MIT Press) in e-book can be your option.

Eddie Patten:

Many people spending their moment by playing outside together with friends, fun activity together with family or just watching TV the entire day. You can have new activity to spend your whole day by reading through a book. Ugh, ya think reading a book really can hard because you have to bring the book everywhere? It fine you can have the e-book, getting everywhere you want in your Touch screen phone. Like *What Was Contemporary Art?* (MIT Press) which is keeping the e-book version. So , try out this book? Let's view.

Lisa Williams:

A lot of publication has printed but it is different. You can get it by online on social media. You can choose

the most effective book for you, science, amusing, novel, or whatever by means of searching from it. It is named of book What Was Contemporary Art? (MIT Press). Contain your knowledge by it. Without causing the printed book, it could possibly add your knowledge and make a person happier to read. It is most important that, you must aware about guide. It can bring you from one destination to other place.

Download and Read Online What Was Contemporary Art? (MIT Press) By Richard Meyer #HXRW15M6Y08

Read What Was Contemporary Art? (MIT Press) By Richard Meyer for online ebook

What Was Contemporary Art? (MIT Press) By Richard Meyer Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read What Was Contemporary Art? (MIT Press) By Richard Meyer books to read online.

Online What Was Contemporary Art? (MIT Press) By Richard Meyer ebook PDF download

What Was Contemporary Art? (MIT Press) By Richard Meyer Doc

What Was Contemporary Art? (MIT Press) By Richard Meyer Mobipocket

What Was Contemporary Art? (MIT Press) By Richard Meyer EPub

HXRW15M6Y08: What Was Contemporary Art? (MIT Press) By Richard Meyer