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# Methods & Theories Of Art History



## Synopsis

Art historical theory is a forum of intense, often passionate debate. This book provides an accessible introduction to the range of critical theories used in analyzing art. It covers a broad range of approaches, presenting individual arguments, controversies, and divergent perspectives. This second edition has been updated to reflect recent scholarship in contemporary art. Clearly written, this book is ideal for the undergraduate student or anyone interested in the world of ideas.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Anne D'Alleva is Associate Professor of Art History and Women's Studies at the University of Connecticut. She is the author of *Arts of the Pacific Islands* and *Look!: The Fundamentals of Art History*.

I was assigned this book for my Methods and Theories of Art History course, and I have to say that it was of great help at the time. What makes me recommend it so fervently is that it greatly complements with the reading of classic art historical texts, in the sense that it provides a much better theoretical background. If you're reading semiological art history, or you're trying to locate the work of Wofflin or Panofsky within a chronological and ideological frame, I would suggest you read this as a helpful background tool. There was a general consensus at the end of the course that D'Alleva's book should be an almost mandatory reading for art history majors, or even for those people whose interest is the history of art and artworks.

I'm working on an Art History double major and found this book to be incredibly useful/helpful (I just

finished up my 4th out of 5 years in college). That being said these weren't the first times I had been introduced to most of these topics but they did help to clarify some ways of looking/thinking about them/deciphering between them. I didn't use the portion at the end that talked about applying these ideas to your writing but found the most value in framing different ideas and the questions each one allowed you to generate. I was writing a paper for one of my 400 level classes which required me to identify and single out different methods of analysis in the authors I was reading. While we had done this before our professor had a bit of a twist to the assignment; they always do don't they? Very different from what we would normally do with a paper (which would include trying to blend different ideas and methods together smoothly, instead we segmented them by their method and identified the strengths and weaknesses of each approach in respect to our object. The purpose of the class was to be more conscious and aware of the different methods/theories of writing in art history and the different questions those "tools" allow you to generate when you approach a work of art; also allowing you to make more informed choices on how to approach different artworks. Very informative and helpful :)

Love this book. It's a pocket guide to understanding theory and criticism.

This book is amazing. I have recently returned to college for graphic design, and a teacher recommended this specifically and D'Alleva in general as a wonderful source for clear information and methods of analyzing artistic works of all kinds. I was uncertain how useful this would be, as this title specifies it is regarding art history theories, but I can't put it down. D'Alleva has a clear, easy writing style and the amount of information she has crammed into this slim volume far surpasses any Google search I've done. I seriously can't recommend this strongly enough, and I will be ordering EVERYTHING D'Alleva ever writes.

Excellent book. Nice size and quality.

Berygtet good

A fine new copy, which got here in time.

This is now my favorite book

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