

Art Criticism and Popular Taste

Douglas Dowland

Dear listmembers,

I am in the preliminaries of researching the role of art criticism in "popular" venues (magazines, newspapers, etc.) in twentieth century America.

I am currently investigating how art criticism works to shape popular taste.

Generally speaking, I am interested in issues of elite and popular (high/low-brow) in 20th century American nonfiction; in audience reception, intersections of art and capital, and the role of academic rhetoric in daily life.

For my project I have researched the standard bibliographies and on-line catalogs of central libraries as well as the indexes of several US-American newspapers since 1970, but I still expect a book/article/dissertation that deals with criticism in "popular" venues to be out there that I did not discover yet. If such a specific publication is known to readers of H-ArtHist, I'd appreciate to receive your message.

Many thanks in advance,

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Reference:

Q: Art Criticism and Popular Taste. In: ArtHist.net, Sep 6, 2002 (accessed Jan 21, 2026),
<<https://arthist.net/archive/25190>>.