

Re: Q: Art Criticism and Popular Taste (3)

Matthias Bruhn

(1)

Douglas:

Maybe you could focus on noted controversies: Tom Wolfe and the books he wrote on the arts (the whole nexus of book and replies or reviews in magazines and newspapers).

(Tom Wolfe: *The painted word*, New York : Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1975).

George

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(2)

Hi Douglas:

For an analysis of art-writing and reviewing in the Australian context see Helen Grace "Pavilions of the Ego: The Critic as Art Object" in Sunil Gupta (ed.) *Disputed Borders: An intervention in definitions of boundaries* 1993 Rivers Oram Press, London.

See also Joanna Mendhelson "An accidental art critic" in Katherine Brisbane (ed.) *Critical Perspectives: eight award winning arts critic, 1997* Currency Press, Sydney (this collection consists of reflections by critics from various fields - visual arts, film, literature, theatre, concerts, food, recordings - on their profession and role as a critic writing for the various metropolitan newspapers in Australia).

Cheers,

Francis Maravillas

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(3)

I'd like to see an entire chapter devoted to how the television news media -- in particular the national and local news on network stations -- approach modern trends in the visual arts. It would be difficult to obtain

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tapes of these programs; but, if you could, you'll doubtlessly find in them an unending barrage of ridicule and derision, and almost never a hint of sympathetic or sensitive reporting. Why is this? Perhaps (as an hypothesis) the News programs instinctively cater to the same audiences to which their commercials are directed. The goal, I suggest, of this kind of criticism is to validate the value system of the audience and to keep them as viewers.

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Reference:

Q: Re: Q: Art Criticism and Popular Taste (3). In: ArtHist.net, Sep 7, 2002 (accessed Mar 17, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/25226>>.