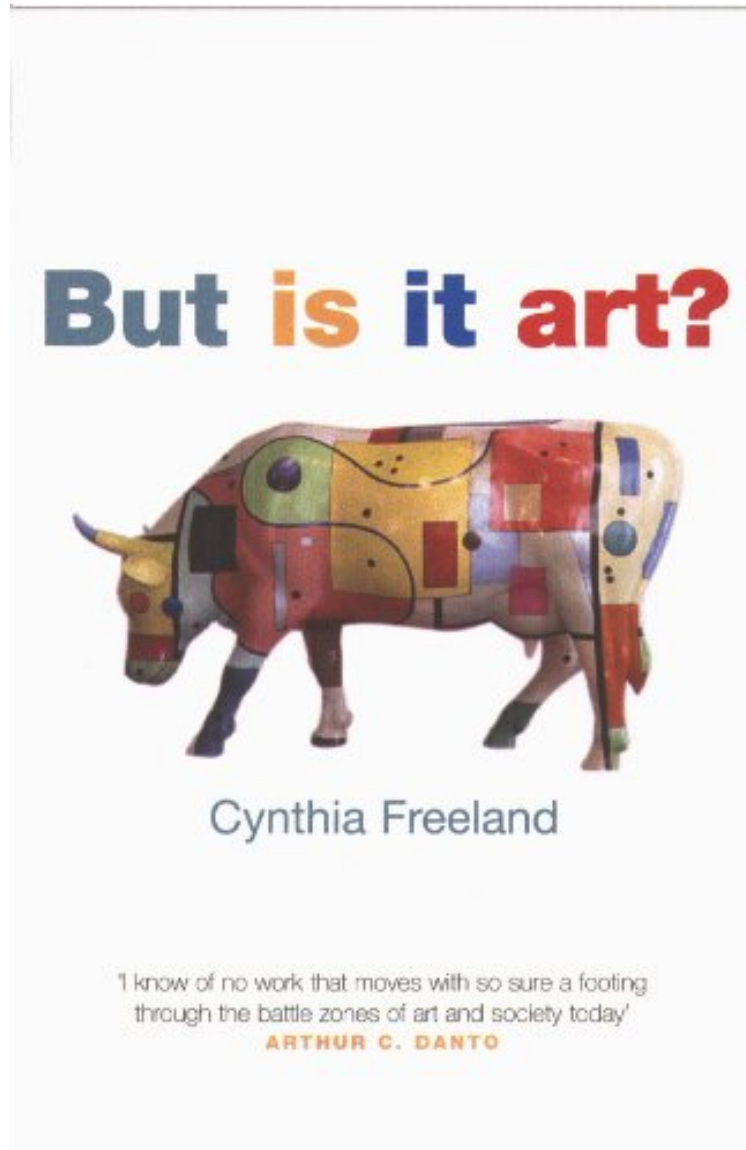


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## But Is It Art?: An Introduction to Art Theory

*Cynthia Freeland*

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**Cynthia Freeland : But Is It Art?: An Introduction to Art Theory** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised But Is It Art?: An Introduction to Art Theory:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I am very pleased with my purchase of But Is It ArtBy g.b. koernerI am very pleased with my purchase of But Is It Art? The book was in great shape, as advertised, and I am so glad that it was both very affordable and easy to purchase. Cynthia Freeman, the author, makes the concept of art, from a culturally educated perspective, refreshingly accessible. As she writes to bring the reader along on her logical and interesting journey, it becomes understandable that this is what any form of art is: the creator's journey. Thus, Ms.

Freeman succeeds at either introducing or reintroducing the idea that art remains, however strange or even horrific that it gets, an invitation to relate to aspects of reality through creative means. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ... a graduate course and was surprised by how much fun this book is to actually read. I made lots of notes in it and carried on lots of conversations. A great book about controversial? art. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars. By CustomerLoved the book.

In today's art world many strange, even shocking, things qualify as art. In this book, Cynthia Freeland explains why innovation and controversy are valued in the arts, weaving together philosophy and art theory with many fascinating examples. She discusses blood, beauty, culture, money, museums, sex, and politics, clarifying contemporary and historical accounts of the nature, function, and interpretation of the arts. Freeland also propels us into the future by surveying cutting-edge web sites, along with the latest research on the brain's role in perceiving art. This clear, provocative book engages with the big debates surrounding our responses to art and is an invaluable introduction to anyone interested in thinking about art.

From Publishers Weekly A survey of everything from aesthetic theory to digital imaging, and of everyone from Goya to Damien Hirst, is packed into seven fast-break chapters here. Freeland (*The Naked and the Undead*), a philosophy professor at the University of Houston, is familiar enough with the impenetrable artspeak and rhetoric surrounding such issues as identity politics, censorship and public funding not to be intimidated by them; her cut-to-the-chase approach to such critical minefields as the use of bodily fluids in art produces clear and often pungent analyses. Chapters on gender, money and the marketplace, and on the uses and abuses of "primitive" motifs in contemporary art making are models of judicious clarity. And the chapters on the science of perception and the digital revolution display Freeland's equal ease with the vocabularies of scientific research. She can also be tart in her thumb-nail assessments of works (some shown in eight color and 24 bw plates): '80s painter and filmmaker David Salle "relies on numbingly familiar imagery"; the sainted political artist Hans Haacke is "preachy and boring." But her interest is at all times on explicating issues rather than on rendering facile judgments. If the book suffers from trying to do too much in too small a space, its ambition and usefulness amply justify Freeland's project on its own terms. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. "I know of no work that moves so swiftly and with so sure a footing through the battle zones of art and society today."--Arthur C. Danto "Profoundly refreshing and satisfying.... Freeland's energetic and engaging voice breezily guides the reader, while employing an astonishing array of examples to illuminate and activate her explications."--Don Bacigalupi, Director, San Diego Museum of Art "A vibrant study of a complex and contentious field of artistic endeavor and enquiry.... Lucid and thought-provoking."--Murray Smith, University of Kent "Freeland provides a unique and inclusive view of the past by discussing it from the vantage point of contemporary art."--Lucy R. Lippard, author of *Mixed Blessings: New Art in a Multicultural America* About the Author Cynthia Freeland is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Houston, Texas. Her books include *The Naked and the Undead: Evil and the Appeal of Horror*, *Feminist Interpretations of Aristotle*, and *Philosophy and Film*.