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Benoît Dillet, Tara Puri

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Benoît Dillet, Tara Puri : The Political Space of Art: The Dardenne Brothers, Arundhati Roy, Ai Weiwei and Burial (Experiments/On the Political) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Political Space of Art: The Dardenne Brothers, Arundhati Roy, Ai Weiwei and Burial (Experiments/On the Political):

This book studies the tension between arts and politics in four contemporary artists from different countries, working with different media. The film directors Luc and Jean-Pierre Dardenne film parts of their natal city to refer to specific political problems in interpersonal relations. The novelist Arundhati Roy uses her poetic language to make room for people's desires; her fiction is utterly political and her political essays make place for the role of narratives and poetic language. Ai Weiwei uses references to Chinese history to give consistency to its 'economic miracles'. Finally, Burial's electronic music is firmly rooted in a living, breathing London; built to create a sound that is entirely new, and yet hauntingly familiar. These artists create in their own way a space for politics in their works and their oeuvre but their singularity comes together as a desire to reconstruct the political space within art from its ruins. These ruins were brought by the disenchantment of 1970s: the end of art, postmodernism, and the rise of design, marketing and communication. Each artwork bears the mark of the resistance against the depoliticisation of society and the arts, at once rejecting cynicism and idealism, referring to themes and political concepts that are larger than their own domain. This book focuses on these productive tensions.

This is a novel and original work of political theory by two exciting and emerging scholars in the field. (Dr. Robert Porter, University of Ulster) Using four artists working in different art forms — filmmakers The Dardenne Brothers, writer Arundhati Roy, visual artist Ai Weiwei and musician Burial — the book explores the formation of creative work within a thick web of political relationships and spheres. Unlike most books about art, usually written from an art or art historical perspective, this publication is written from a political/philosophical standpoint. Dillet and Puri analogise in the introduction that, just as Deleuze and Guattari argue for a non-philosophical approach to philosophy to see the different facets of how it really operates, a 'non-art approach to art' is required to open up insights into its effect. (International Sculpture Center) About the Author Benoit Dillet is an Assistant Lecturer in Political Thought at the School of Politics and International Relations, University of Kent. Tara Puri is a Global Research Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Study, University of Warwick.