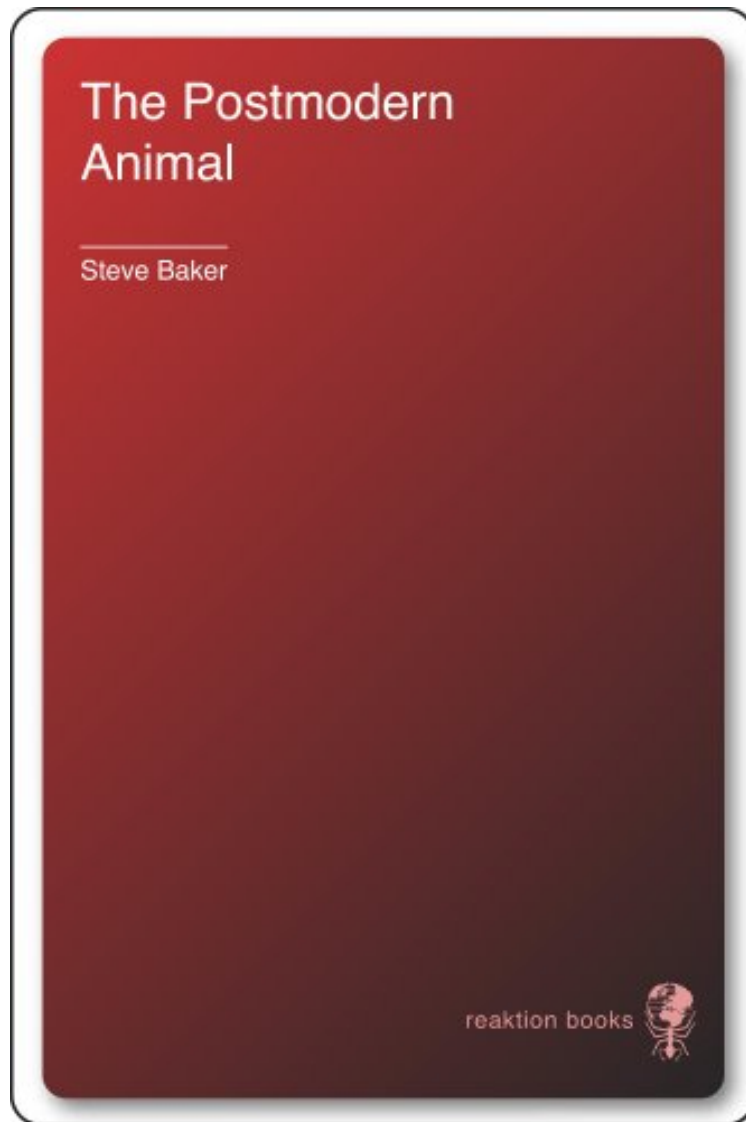


(Library ebook) The Postmodern Animal (Essays in Art and Culture)

The Postmodern Animal (Essays in Art and Culture)

Steve Baker

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Steve Baker : The Postmodern Animal (Essays in Art and Culture) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Postmodern Animal (Essays in Art and Culture):

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Clever and insightful, but not for entertainmentBy WityshynThis book is not for the animal enthusiast who is looking for cute stories about critters and a little background on the blue dog painter. This is a book about animals as they appear in the postmodern era. Really, if the reader is not interested in contemporary art, this may be a dull read because it expects a minimal level of art background. However, if you are interested in art now and animals in contemporary culture, especially if you are an artist working with animals, this is a great read!Artists discussed that may be familiar include:Joseph BueysDamien HirstPaula RegoCindy ShermanPaul

McCarthyJeff KoonsBruce NaumanHubert DupratLouise BourgeoisWilliam WegmanIt was amazing to see a compilation of animal works through these artists, although it gave relatively few avenues to expand my own work. It was exceptionally gratifying to hear that I wasn't the only one hitting this animal criticism (Using animals in postmodern art is harder than declaring yourself a landscape artist). There is even a great chapter in the end about fear of the familiar, in using animals like pets, due to anthropomorphobia and the fear of being uncritically sentimental. Ultimately, it was very insightful and a fairly easy read. Don't expect to gain all the answers of postmodernism by reading this though - postmodernism is more or less built on questions, not answers. It's more of a window and a categorizing based on various theories and criticisms. Enjoy!! 5 of 66 people found the following review helpful. Ridiculous pomo nonsense. By BI'm sure that there might be plenty who say that I'm too dull and logocentric, too "Oedipalized", to recognize the obvious profundity that lies in these pages. The intelligent reader, however, who does not confuse obscurity for insight, might think differently. I don't know what would possess someone to write about the "postmodern animal" - I really don't. So often in these pages it seems as though Baker has to read "the postmodern animal" into places it just doesn't seem to be. That is, whatever the hell the "postmodern animal" is. I'm not quite sure myself after trying to decipher this trendy gobbledegook. I guess I have to "supply my own meaning" or some other such hippy postmodernist platitude. What is happening to this world?

In *The Postmodern Animal*, Steve Baker explores how animal imagery has been used in modern and contemporary art and performance, and in postmodern philosophy and literature, to suggest and shape ideas about identity and creativity. Baker cogently analyses the work of such European and American artists as Olly and Suzi, Mark Dion, Paula Rego and Sue Coe, at the same time looking critically at the constructions, performances and installations of Robert Rauschenberg, Louise Bourgeois, Joseph Beuys and other significant late twentieth-century artists. Baker's book draws parallels between the animal's place in postmodern art and poststructuralist theory, drawing on works as diverse as Jacques Derrida's recent analysis of the role of animals in philosophical thought and Julian Barnes's best-selling *Flaubert's Parrot*.

'This is a wonderful book ... Steve Baker provides the most cogent explanation so far of how the questioning of human identity ineluctably raises issues about animals ... He has given us a great gift, an understanding of a process unfolding during our own time.' -- Carol J. Adams, author of *The Sexual Politics of Meat* About the Author Steve Baker is Senior Lecturer in Historical and Critical Studies at the University of Central Lancashire and is the author of *Picturing the Beast* (1993).