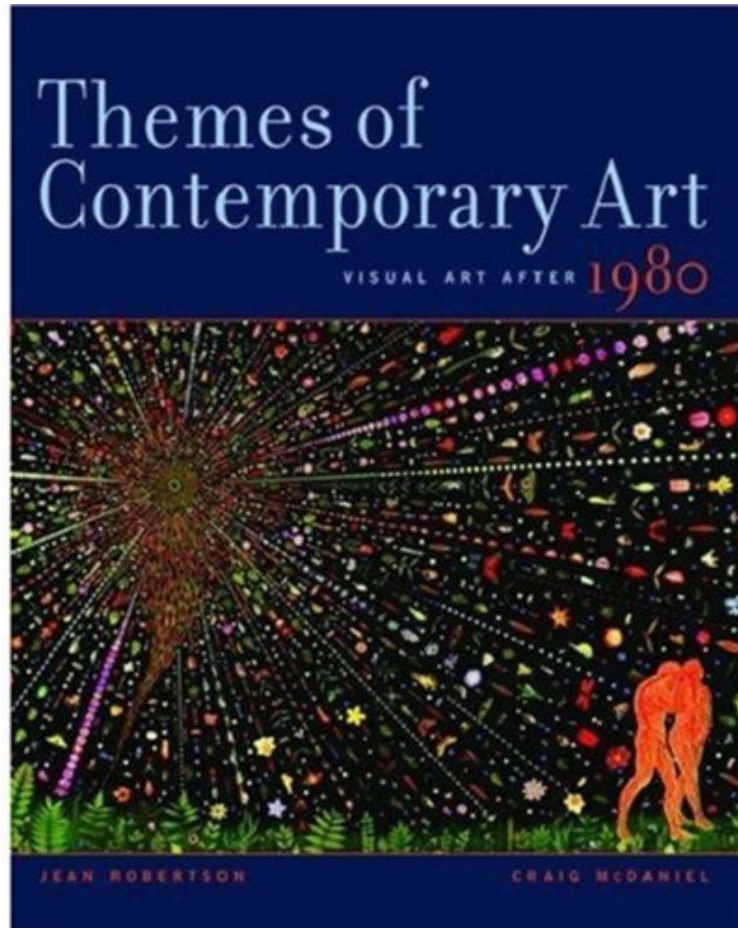


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## Themes of Contemporary Art: Visual Art After 1980

*Craig McDaniel, Jean Robertson*  
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#1678262 in Books 2005 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.40 x .30 x 9.201, #File Name: 0195162153464 pages | File size: 74.Mb

**Craig McDaniel, Jean Robertson : Themes of Contemporary Art: Visual Art After 1980** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Themes of Contemporary Art: Visual Art After 1980:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. thematic not chronological By Artist Mom I've struggled to find a good overview of contemporary art that's not just a chronological listing; the date artwork was created isn't really the most important factor, so why organize a book that way? I find the chapters in Themes of Contemporary Art, organized thematically, to be extremely relevant: science, the body, time, place, for example. The authors handle some topics with a greater degree of understanding than others. Place and The Body, for example, are well fleshed out (so to speak). However, the chapter on Identity is perfunctory and lacks a deeper understanding of the myriad issues facing people who are immigrants, displaced, or marginalized. A few other chapters lack written coherency and are almost reduced to lists of artists and concepts that can somehow be tied to the broader theme. Overall, despite these flaws, this book provides a good thematic overview and is best suited for those without a strong prior grasp of the global

contemporary art scene. It's a fine introduction which does not wallow in artspeak. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wittgenstein stretched into art. By William Patrick Very well written. If you google the artists and philosophers the authors mention while reading this book, it will restore your interest in art. You may discover the context needed today feel the content of today's art. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great Book to get caught up by Gary Dufner I've been out of the art scene for a while and this book got me all caught up on a LOT of artists I did not know.

Themes of Contemporary Art: Visual Art after 1980 is a unique introduction to several important themes that have recurred in art over the past few decades. Examining visual art from 1980 to the present, it takes an intriguing and accessible approach that motivates students and other readers to think actively about and discuss contemporary art--what it means and how it means what it does. The opening chapter provides a concise overview of the period, analyzing how four key changes (the rise of new media, a growing awareness of diversity, the influence of theory, and interactions with everyday visual culture) have resulted in an art world with dramatically expanded boundaries. Reflecting the paradigm shift from a formalist way of teaching studio art to more varied and open-ended concepts, the remaining six chapters each deal with a key theme--time, place, the body, language, identity, and spirituality. Each chapter features an introduction to the thematic topic; a brief look at historical precedents and influences; a detailed analysis of how contemporary artists have responded to and embodied aspects of the theme in specific works; and an in-depth and fascinating profile of an artist who has extensively explored aspects of the theme in his or her work. Themes of Contemporary Art: Visual Art after 1980 shows how art can be interpreted from several different angles: techniques and materials, historical circumstances, aesthetic qualities, theoretical issues, and an artist's ideas and intentions. Writing in a lucid and engaging style, the authors skillfully reveal the multiple levels of meaning in artworks, drawing connections between contemporary art, art of the past, and everyday existence. The volume is enhanced by 87 illustrations--19 in full color--that demonstrate an immense variety of materials, subjects, and styles. These well-chosen examples will help readers learn to critically describe, interpret, and evaluate contemporary visual art. A bibliography and a timeline that situates contemporary art in the context of major events in world history, art, and popular culture are also included. An ideal core text for courses in contemporary art history, Themes of Contemporary Art: Visual Art after 1980 can also be used as a supplement in modern art, art appreciation, art criticism/theory, and studio art courses.

"An excellent book that approaches contemporary art in ways that are relevant to how art is made today, ways that move beyond the old categories of medium and genre to examine a group of issues that motivate and structure much of the content of today's art."--Timothy Van Laar, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and coauthor of *Art with a Difference: Looking at Difficult and Unfamiliar Art* and *Active Sights: Art as Social Interaction* About the Author Jean Robertson and Craig McDaniel are both at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.