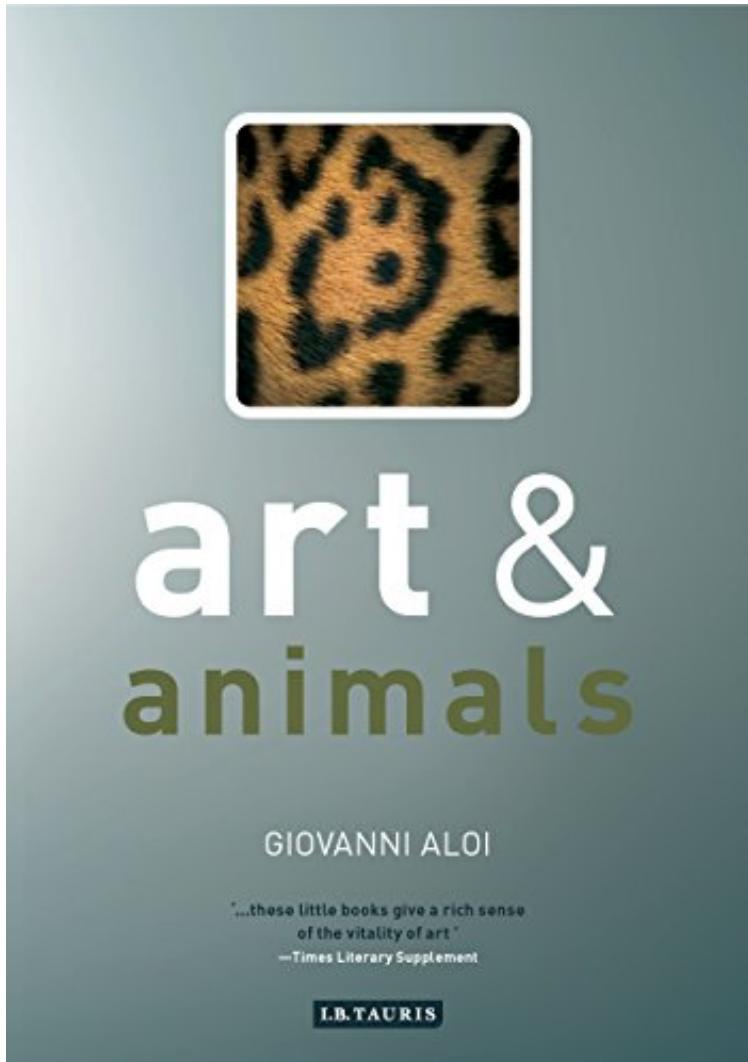


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Art and Animals (Art and Series)

Giovanni Aloi

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Giovanni Aloi : Art and Animals (Art and Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Art and Animals (Art and Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Nina Allen excellent condition!

‘Art is continually haunted by the animal,’ wrote Deleuze and Guattari. Over the past two decades, animals have quite literally invaded the gallery space, from Joseph Beuys’s co-habiting with a coyote, Janis Kounellis’s instillation of live horses, Damien Hirst’s shark in formaldehyde to Mark Dion’s natural history displays and Marco Evaristti’s ‘goldfish in a blender’. No longer a passive object in art, animals, the environment they inhabit, and their encounters with humans are central to current artistic debate. This

volume addresses the role of the animal in contemporary art, and the controversial artistic approaches that are reconceptualising ideas of primitivism and civilisation. In radical contrast with the mythical and romantic depictions of animals throughout art history, the postmodern animal is problematic and provocative. This text uncovers themes of identity, otherness and humanity in emerging artistic approaches that place the animal at the centre of the scene. Often unnerving, dangerous, and disturbing, the animal of contemporary art poses a challenge to anthropocentrism and forces the viewer to reconsider their relationship to the planet. Giovanni Aloi argues that in light of the fatal challenge imposed by global warming and ecological disasters, there has never been a better time for art to focus on the representation of animals and the natural environment. From the use of living animals in art to the return of taxidermy, Giovanni Aloi considers the moral and ethical implications of visual representations which frame and subjugate wilderness. And as the artificial gallery space houses representations of natural habitats, the relationship between art and the environment is interrogated. *Art and Animals* surveys the insistent presence of animals in contemporary art, discussing the leading concepts which inform these emerging practises through a range of thought-provoking, innovative, and, at times, dangerous art.

""Jacob von Uexküll once called on biologists, ecologists, and philosophers to take a stroll through the worlds of animals and men and challenged us to see the world through other than human eyes. Contemporary art has taken up Uexküll's call and now challenges us to do the same. Giovanni Aloi leads us on a stroll through the truly stunning world of animal art. Among the menagerie, readers will find themselves immersed in pickled sharks, genetically altered bunnies, taxidermied polar bears and pets re-imagined. It is some comfort to have this book as a companion in approaching such a multivalent field. In *Art and Animals*, Aloi brings to bear his wealth of experience as editor of *Antennae: Journal of Nature in Visual Culture*. He proves an adept guide in giving his readers ways of framing and re-framing the burgeoning world of animal art without ever feeling that his mastery cheats the richness of the field." - Ron Broglio, Assistant Professor, Arizona State University ""Giovanni Aloi articulately and sensitively unpacks the varied passionate, complex and, at times, questionable motives behind the art world's current embrace of the animal subject. He accomplishes this with erudite, and yet accessible, explanations and perceptions, all the while keeping animals themselves firmly in the reader's mind. Thinking around animals has grown exponentially in the last decade. In this time of environmental crisis the interest in the human relationship with other species has become a focal point for change. Aloi offers us, through artists' engagement with 'the animal' and animals themselves, a mirror in which to see our own struggles with our relationships with the non-human world." - Carol Gigliotti, Associate Professor, Dynamic Media and Critical and Cultural Studies, Emily Carr University and Editor, *Leonardo's Choice: Genetic technologies and animals*