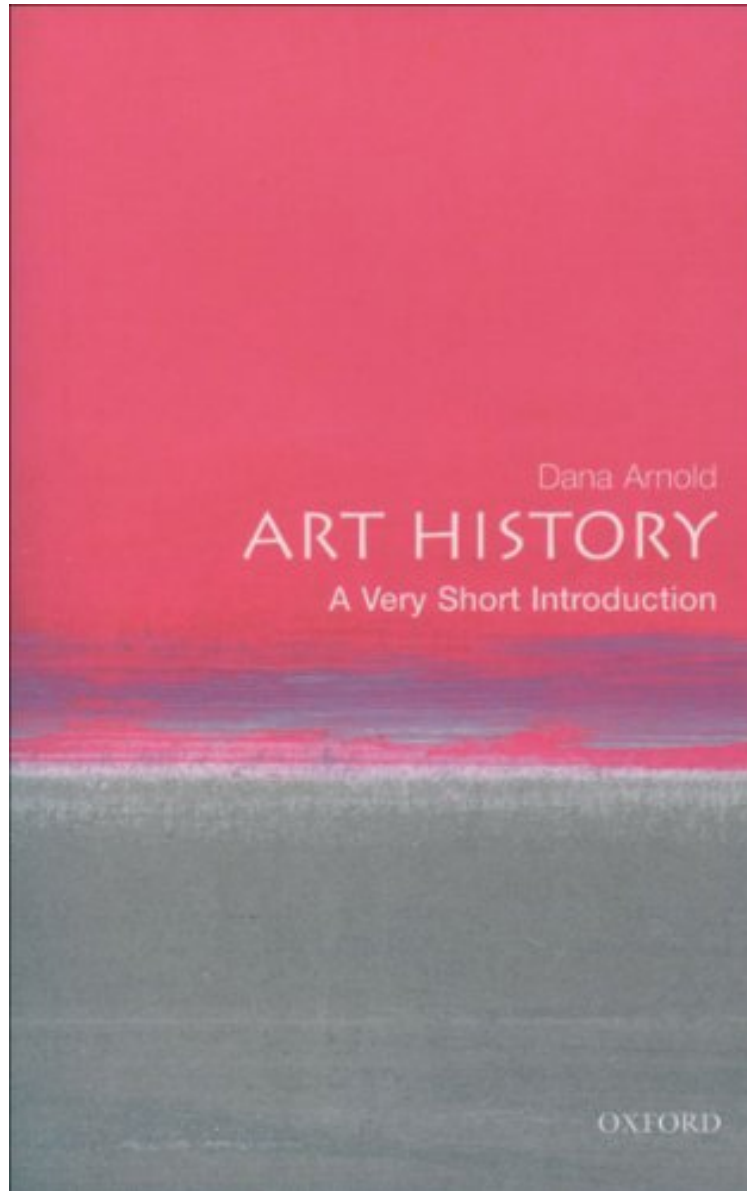


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Art History: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)

Dana Arnold

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Dana Arnold : Art History: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Art History: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions):

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Obscurantist, feminist art historyBy HHArt history is not an easy

subject. Overall, this is a high-brow, reasonable introduction to the subject, but it suffers from the author's didactic style. Unfortunately Arnold, in her determination not to let the history of art become "a list of white men", presents a distorted picture of what readers should expect. It is perhaps unfortunate that the history of Western art is, for various reasons, dominated by affluent white men, but this should not affect the aim of sufficiently introducing readers to art history more generally. If you're looking for a book that will actually teach you about artists in history (as one would hope), look elsewhere; Bosanquet's "A History of Aesthetic" is an excellent choice. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I love these. By G. H. Goodwin I have well over a dozen of these. Great introductions to subjects you're interested in. Plenty of references to further readings. 16 of 21 people found the following review helpful. Vague By John Woods This essay, sprinkled with expressions of feminist ideas, is trying to convince readers that some approaches to art history are invalid. It is hard to be certain what art history is in the book author's opinion; I think it boils down to the following: art history is how artworks make us feel. This is historically legitimate, since artist contemporaries view artworks in different ways from generations that supersede them. The author also pays attention to how the ways art is exhibited and written about influence our perceptions. At the end of the book you will find a little bit of information on progression of fine art techniques. If you like to read critical articles, I think you will enjoy reading this book.

This clear and concise new introduction examines all the major debates and issues using a wide range of well-known examples. It discusses the challenge of using verbal and written language to analyse a visual form. Dana Arnold also examines the many different ways of writing about art, and the changing boundaries of the subject of art history. Topics covered include the canon of Art History, the role of the gallery, 'blockbuster' exhibitions, the emergence of social histories of art (Feminist Art History or Queer Art History, for example), the impact of photography, and the development of Art History using artefacts such as the altarpiece, the portrait, or pornography, to explore social and cultural issues such as consumption, taste, religion, and politics. Importantly, this book explains how the traditional emphasis on periods and styles originates in western art production and can obscure other critical approaches, as well as art from non western cultures. ABOUT THE SERIES: The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable.

About the Author Dana Arnold is Professor of Architectural History at the University of Southampton and Director of the Center for Studies in Architecture and Urbanism. Her recent publications include Re-presenting the Metropolis and The Georgian Country House: Architecture, Landscape and Society.