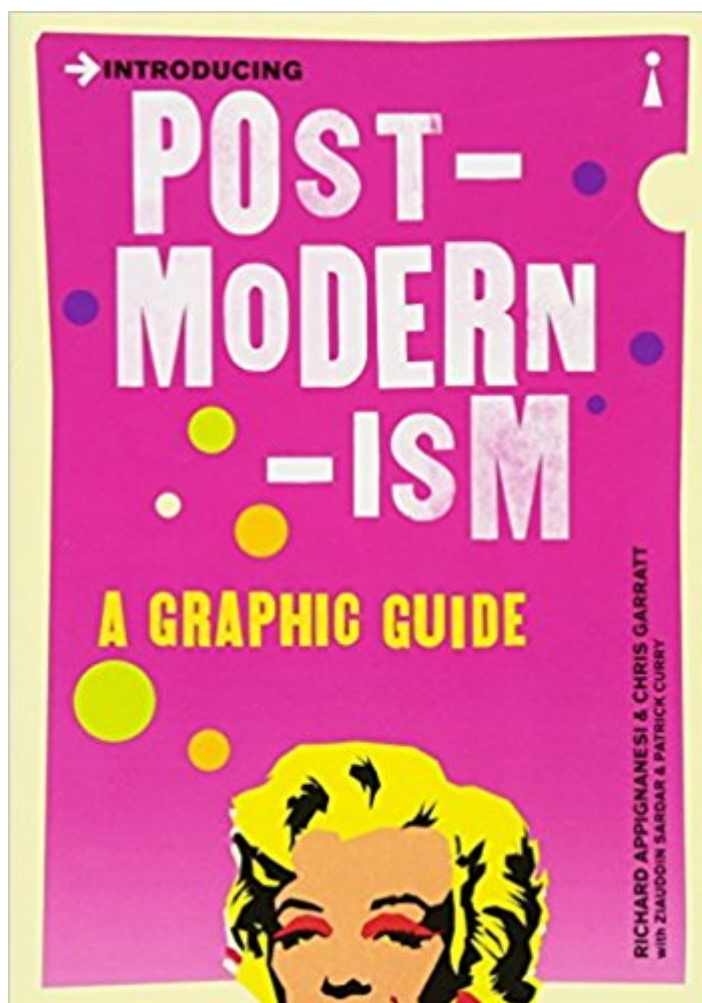


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Introducing Postmodernism: A Graphic Guide



Synopsis

What connects Marilyn Monroe, Disneyworld, "The Satanic Verses" and cyber space? Answer: Postmodernism. But what exactly is postmodernism? This graphic guide explains clearly the maddeningly enigmatic concept that has been used to define the world's cultural condition over the last three decades. "Introducing Postmodernism" tracks the idea back to its roots by taking a tour of some of the most extreme and exhilarating events, people and thought of the last 100 years: in art - constructivism, conceptual art, Marcel Duchamp, Jackson Pollock and Andy Warhol; in politics and history - McCarthy's witch-hunts, feminism, Francis Fukuyama and the Holocaust; in philosophy - the work of Derrida, Baudrillard, Foucault and Heidegger. The book also explores postmodernism's take on today, and the anxious grip of globalization, unpredictable terrorism and unforeseen war that greeted the dawn of the 21st century. Regularly controversial, rarely straightforward and seldom easy, postmodernism is nonetheless a thrilling intellectual adventure. "Introducing Postmodernism" is the ideal guide.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Richard Appignanesi is a novelist, editor and publisher, and a Research Fellow at King's College London. He is the originating editor of the Introducing series and has also written Freud and Existentialism books in the series. Chris Garratt is an illustrator and cartoonist whose "Biff" comic series ran for twenty years in the Guardian.

Uniquely British, this guide takes listeners on a quirky ride from the origins of postmodernism to its present state of influence. Two young British socialites are alternately excited and scandalized by the production's sound-effects-and-music-laden tour of postmodern art, which includes discussion of the artists' motivations and eccentricities, as well as their ground-breaking work. Narrator and cast careen through the philosophy and practice of postmodernism, negotiating humorous twists and audio jokes with flair and clarity. While the young Brits sometimes claim that they'd prefer a nice cup of cocoa to looking at Marcel Duchamp's startling creations, this audiobook manages to entertain and instruct in a distinctly theatric postmodern style. D.J.B. © AudioFile 2005, Portland, Maine-- Copyright © AudioFile, Portland, Maine

Yes, we're no longer living in the Modern Age. Since at least the assassinations of JFK, Bobby Kennedy and MLK, a new mode of thought has evolved in the Western World—a way of seeing the world and ourselves that is so different from the Modern view that dominated Western thought from the Enlightenment until just a few decades ago—that our predecessors strike many today as intellectually and morally bankrupt. Take, for example, one Donald TRUMP. Because Trump's ideas are so aligned with Modern ideas nationalism, industrialism, fixed values, emphasis on excellence, limited trade, etc., and because PostModern ideas such as multiculturalism, inclusion, world order, relativism, and open borders, many find him impossible to understand, even hateful. PostModern thinking is so pervasive in Western culture today that Indeed, to one extent or another, WE ARE ALL POST-MODERNS NOW, author Richard Appignanesi demonstrates in this book. Easy, fun read and useful either as an Introduction to PostModernism or as, in my case, a light Review. With dozens of zaney pictures (black and white) and other images, witty comments and yet a fair amount of expository commentary on the subject as well, the 189 page book does a decent job of presenting the many facets of PostModernism, touching on PostModern Art, Architecture, History, Politics, Philosophy, etc. The author also integrates the many categories of PM thought quite nicely into a light, often humorous narrative that is both entertaining and informative. This presentation seems to be offered from a Pro PostModernist point of view, but it is nevertheless pretty fair-minded, I believe, and worth a look.

This book touches all the bases and gives anyone interested a working handle on the high points. Considering the subject matter and the viewpoints it juggles, it's outstanding. In fact, anyone interested in taking this time through the material and thinking through the basic presentation of first

principles (for lack a better term) can really come away with a sophisticated introduction. However, as is the case with people buying study guides, if you expect to be taught something as opposed to learning it (getting something for little effort) it will disappoint. It is after all, just a clever introduction to the high points. On that note, it is not a critical introduction. The relevant ideas are presented as if they are not contended (they are). I recommend it highly, however, anyone who wants a better, more thorough and rigorous introduction would do better with Christopher Butler's, Post modernism: A very short introduction, which is outstanding. If all you have time for is one introduction, and if you need that introduction to be clearly and well presented and thorough, Butler won't disappoint.

Very VERY good intro.

I love the Introducing series. They are excellent study guides for topics that may be unfamiliar. They are generally not too detailed but provide a good jumping off point for further research. Introducing Postmodernism was a bit vague, but I guess so is postmodernism itself. To completely understand the book, you first must have an idea what postmodernism is, and if you have such an idea, you don't really need a postmodern study guide. It gives a lot of examples of postmodernity in society without actually stating what postmodernism is, but who CAN actually state what postmodernism is? It discusses everyone from Stephen Hawking to Madonna, everything from "Cyberia" and genetic cloning to Disneyland and karaoke. It might give you some ideas if you have to write a paper, than again it just might frustrate you and cause you to spin off into cyberspace.

It's a good graphic novel explanation of why modern art is creatively exhausted. What do you do, after breaking all the rules? If nothing is sacred, there's nothing left to protest.

This is a good book for those interested in contemporary art. Is art dead? what does it take to be radical nowadays when everything that has been done has already been done. =[

A nice fun introduction to a complex topic.

Highly recommend this book for all who are studying art and art history. Very interesting way of teaching it. great book

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