

Toward New Philosophical Functionalization Of Art: Modernity In Question



Aesthetics and Modernity: Toward a New Philosophical Functionalization of Art (Modernity in Question)

by David C. Pyrooz

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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The concept of art has undergone profound transformations throughout history, with the advent of modernity marking a significant turning point. Modernity brought with it a radical departure from traditional notions of art's role and purpose, giving rise to new artistic practices and philosophical inquiries that challenged established norms.

In his seminal work, "Toward New Philosophical Functionalization Of Art," philosopher and art theorist Arthur Danto argues that the traditional understanding of art as a realm of privileged objects has become increasingly untenable in the modern era. He proposes a new philosophical framework for understanding art, one that emphasizes its functional role in society rather than its inherent aesthetic properties.

The Traditional View of Art

The traditional view of art, which prevailed until the advent of modernity, held that art was a distinct realm of human activity characterized by its autonomy, disinterestedness, and aesthetic qualities. Art was seen as a form of knowledge that could provide insights into the nature of reality, truth, and beauty.

This traditional view of art has its roots in the philosophical writings of Immanuel Kant, who argued that art is a form of cognitive activity that is distinct from both science and morality. Kant believed that art was a unique mode of understanding the world that could not be reduced to either logical reasoning or practical application.

The Challenge of Modernity

The advent of modernity brought with it a series of challenges to the traditional view of art. The rise of industrialization, mass production, and technological innovation led to the proliferation of new materials and techniques that artists could use to create their work.

At the same time, the social and political upheavals of the modern era led to a questioning of traditional values and institutions, including the idea of art as a privileged realm of human activity. Artists began to question the traditional boundaries of art and to explore new forms of artistic expression.

Danto's New Philosophical Functionalization of Art

In response to the challenges posed by modernity, Danto proposes a new philosophical framework for understanding art. He argues that art is not a distinct realm of human activity, but rather a set of practices that are defined by their functional role in society.

Danto identifies three main functions of art: the cognitive, the expressive, and the therapeutic. The cognitive function of art is to provide insights into the nature of reality, truth, and beauty. The expressive function of art is to allow individuals to express their emotions, thoughts, and ideas. The therapeutic function of art is to provide a means of healing and personal growth.

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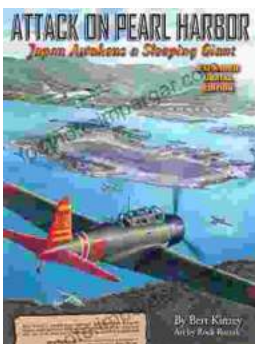


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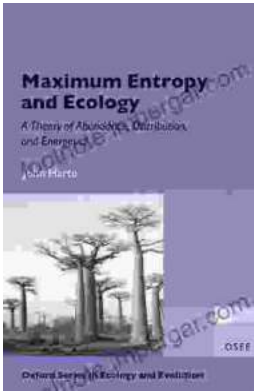
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