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H. James Jensen

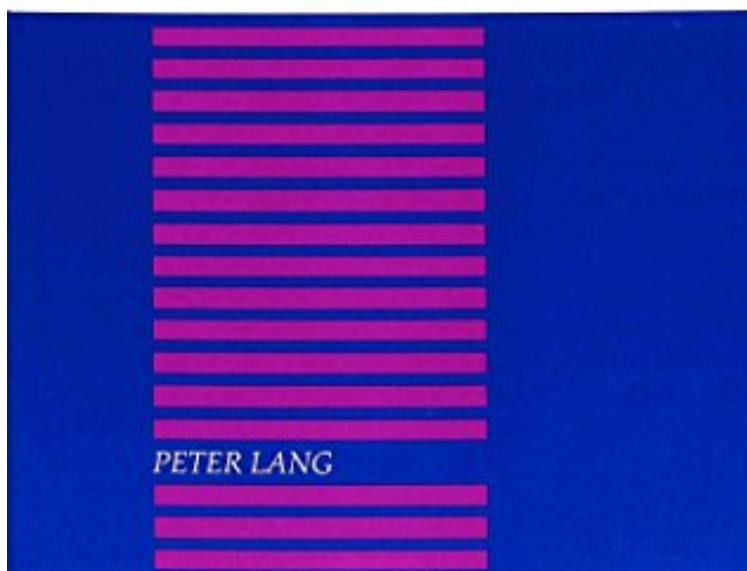
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worth my time, and all praised *Signs and Meaning in Eighteenth-Century Art: Epistemology, Rhetoric, Painting, Poesy, Music, Dramatic Performance, and G.F. Handel*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating and Original
By Frau Stechpalme
While this book takes a fair amount of concentration to read, it rewards the reader with valuable insights into the (Western) eighteenth century's perspective on art, psychology, the human condition and how all these things interrelated. Its scope is broad and ambitious, but while it sometimes becomes a little repetitive, it presents its quite original arguments with constant and solid reference to artworks and treatises of the period. A must-read for any researcher of the eighteenth century, especially with regard to its arts.

Signs and Meaning explains historical assumptions about eighteenth-century art and performance, and the signs employed. It assumes that how artists thought they made art and how audiences thought they received it was how it was made, received, and understood. Eighteenth-century epistemological and rhetorical assumptions bring together meaning and practices of rhetoric, philosophy, literature, painting, dramatic performance, and music. Musical drama shows the widest range of signs for an audience, presenting and representing the passions as the basis for the understanding of human nature and actions. This book starts with explanations of assumptions, and ends with analyses of G. F. Handel's dramatic oratorios.