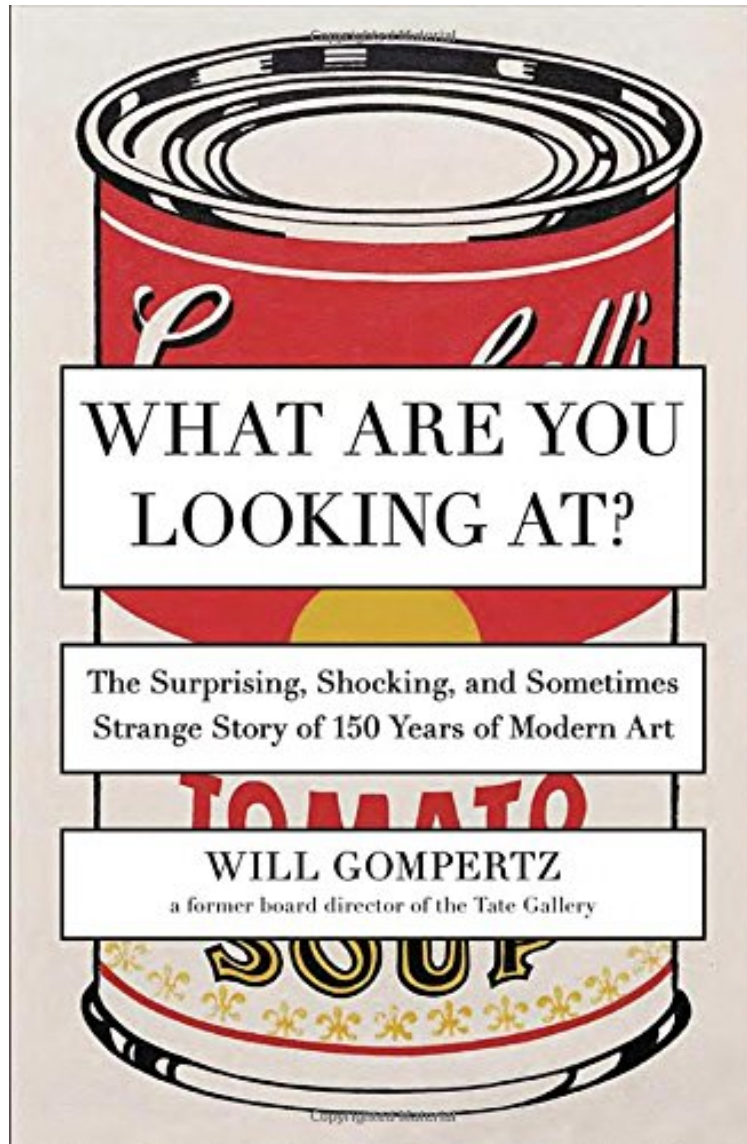


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Will Gompertz

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#103784 in Books Will Gompertz 2013-09-24 2013-09-24 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.41 x 1.15 x 5.491, 1.25 #File Name: 0142180297464 pages What Are You Looking At The Surprising Shocking and Sometimes Strange Story of 150 Years of Modern Art | File size: 19.Mb

Will Gompertz : What Are You Looking At?: The Surprising, Shocking, and Sometimes Strange Story of 150 Years of Modern Art before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised What Are You Looking At?: The Surprising, Shocking, and Sometimes Strange Story of 150 Years of Modern Art:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Uneven but EnjoyableBy WHWhen Gompertz lets his personality show and the anecdotes flow, his prose and this book floats and flies; when he pauses at times for drier academic asides (or to simply fill in a historical gap where he has little interest or passion), it slows. As a whole, this book is a terrific and informative survey of the history of (Western) modern art, albeit with some extremely well-written sections especially at the bookends (Impressionism and the last two decades) and some that are unclear, rushed or dragged out (Dadaism, Fauvism). One shortcoming in this one (and frankly most work): almost no representation by non Western artists (except for political showman Ai Weiwei of course...)4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. informative and very readableBy Charles D.Gompertz is a knowledgeable and entertaining writer. WAYLA offers a very coherent explanation of the puzzle of modern art --why works with very little technical virtuosity would be so well regarded, including why collectors and museums would pay such absurd prices. I learned a lot from this book. It introduced me to some art and some artists that I really enjoy. It confirmed some of my cynical presumptions about the art business but it also opened my mind.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Very enjoyable overview of modern artBy Sheryl NonnenbergI really enjoyed this book; it was informative without being pretentious, as many art history books can be. The author very clearly charts the evolution of modern art from Impressionism forward, in everyday terms and language that everyone can understand (no boring Artspeak). It was fun, amusing and really kept my interest. I would highly recommend it to anyone with an interest in art.

In the tradition of *Eats, Shoots Leaves*, art history with a sense of humorEvery year, millions of museum and gallery visitors ponder the modern art on display and secretly ask themselves, "Is this art?" A former director at London's Tate Gallery and now the BBC arts editor, Will Gompertz made it his mission to bring modern art's exciting history alive for everyone, explaining why an unmade bed or a pickled shark can be art and why a five-year-old couldn't really do it. Rich with extraordinary tales and anecdotes, *What Are You Looking At?* entertains as it arms readers with the knowledge to truly understand and enjoy what it is they're looking at.

From Booklist*Starred * Gompertz succeeds in his stated mission to take a personal, informative, anecdotal, and accessible approach to defining the full spectrum of modern art movements, beginning with impressionism, by portraying the instigating artists and explaining what they were up to and why. A former director of the Tate in London, and currently the arts editor at the BBC, Gompertz is adept at elucidating complex aesthetic ideas and artistic techniques and linking revolutionary art movements to social upheaval (war, communism, the Holocaust) and scientific and technological developments (quantum physics, television, the atom bomb). He revels in the creative, multidisciplinary synergy surrounding such key figures as Monet, Picasso, de Kooning, and Warhol. And he daringly takes a novelist's approach to such foundational acts as Duchamp's purchase of a urinal in New York City in 1917 to create a readymade sculpture that embodied the pivotal realization that if an artist says something is a work of art, it is. Gompertz adeptly divides each broad movement into its intriguing subgroups and includes many more artists, critics, and dealers than the usual suspects. His dissections of performance and conceptual art are uniquely clarifying, and he even coins a keenly apt term for such current provocateurs as Damien Hirst and Jeff Koons: the entrepreneurialists. A deeply enlightening and buoyant history of modern art and beyond. --Donna Seaman Gompertz has an uncanny knack for making difficult art (and ideas) easyA lively, witty account of the major moments and movements of the past 150 years.Associated PressAn insightful love letter to modern art and an irreverent rejection of the notion that its pleasures are reserved for a chosen few Each [chapter] hums with engaging history and entertaining anecdotes, cheeky asides and accessible, illuminating criticism.NPRGompertz is determined to dispel the layman's fear of the modern art world and those who inhabit it.*What Are You Looking At?*, which comes out this week, does a very good job of thisreplacing isolating esotericism with witty and chatty commentary.InterviewA deeply enlightening and buoyant history of modern art and beyond.Booklist (starred review)[A] highly lucid, lively, and buoyantly composed historywhile his tone is breezy and conversational, [Gompertz] astutely and often wittily describes the core of every movement and its key artists.Publishers WeeklyAbout the AuthorWill Gompertz writes, presents, and produces programs about the arts for the BBC. He lives in Oxford, England.