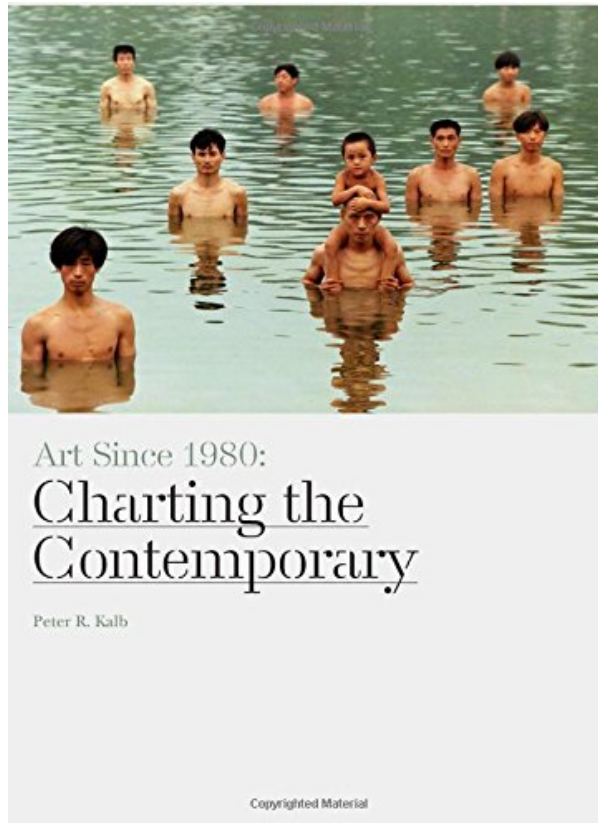


ART SINCE 1980: CHARTING THE CONTEMPORARY BY PETER R. KALB



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“The writing is clear, artists are well chosen, and the chapter organization is logical. . . . The author strikes an admirable balance between a social history of institutions and contexts, and attention to individual aesthetic choices.”

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“A quite complete and detailed survey of contemporary art, that . . . goes into substantial detail on a number of world contemporary artists.”

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“A good overview of late twentieth-century art, organized thematically and built of short discussions of individual artists. The way that the text is primarily organized around short discussions of individual artists or organizations is effective.”

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About the Author

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Art Since 1980 holds up a mirror to our society while charting the story of art in contemporary global culture. With over 300 pictures of painting, photography, sculpture, installation, performance and video art, we are led on a fascinating journey via the individuals and communities who have shaped world art. The political and cultural transformations of the early 1980s developed a new era of compatibility between communist states and western-style economics. The art world then expanded to include Russia and China, feminism and racial equality came to the fore, and the World Wide Web was born, changing forever the availability and distribution of visual material. Today we see record-breaking sales of contemporary art and a dramatic rise in the number of students taking courses in the visual and performing arts. Kalb approaches art from various angles, such as artistic production, display, critical reception and its relationship to society. Alongside his analysis of specific works of art, he also builds a framework for students to acquire the more general skills of research, and abstract and theoretical thinking.

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Most helpful customer reviews

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Good textbook and a second edition will be terrific!!

By Wayne Crosby

I used this book in my undergraduate and graduate courses last spring. Kalb takes time to address contemporary issues in their historical context, which is refreshing and often lost in the more prevalent thematic versions of contemporary art history textbooks. I was able to address contemporary art as an art history class should and could create tests to see how well my students understood the artists and their works, along with conceptual, political, and historical issues. I have two criticisms: (1) His selection of artists needs to be increased. Although I was able to add many of the missing artists in my lectures, I was perplexed that Carrie Mae Weems and Lorna Simpson were missing. (2) Kalb also ignores significant aspects of photographic production from the late 1990s until today, specifically large-scale photography, like that produced by Gursky. I added a special day to expand upon contemporary issues related to photography, video, and performance, using outside readings. Despite my criticisms, the book was good overall, and I would recommend it highly as a textbook. Kalb can easily address my concerns in a second or revised edition.

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Needs a ton of edits

By kay

Peter Kalb obviously has an issue with black contemporary artists because he doesn't mention any and for someone in his position, the oversight is embarrassing. I used this book for a Master's class Art since 1980 and it was a disappointment. Leaving black people out of the discourse is such a tired move.

2 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Beautiful book, beautifully written.

By J. Starr

This gorgeous book is for student, art lover or expert. Kalb has an astounding visual vocabulary that encourages active engagement with contemporary art. He is so attentive to the political, person, and societal meaning of the art of our times. This book is a far-reaching global study, but it is in no way a survey. The in depth attention to the carefully selected artists help the reader understand the multitude of issues surrounding art making, art selling, the meaning of art in all our lives.

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