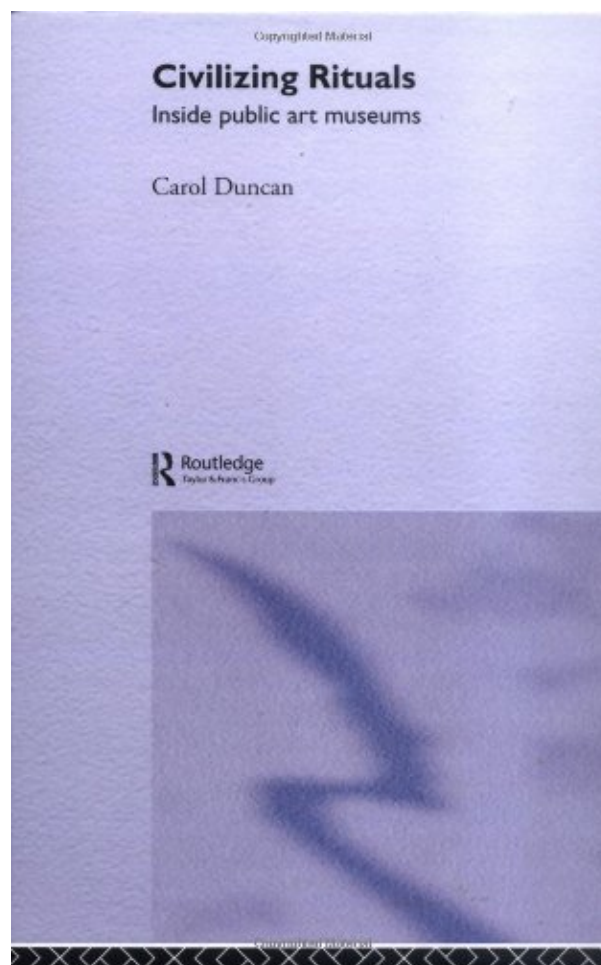


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MUSEUMS (LEICESTER-NOTTINGHAM
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Civilizing Rituals

Inside public art museums

Carol Duncan

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"Duncan balances her reading of the museum as economically motivated and culturally specific sign with a theoretically promising investigation of ritual and liminality in the gallery context."

- "Parachute

""Civilizing Rituals is a significant addition to art museum bibliography."

- "Academics on Display

From the Back Cover

In a groundbreaking study, Carol Duncan explores the function of art museums as ritual settings and as cultural artifacts that are much more than neutral shelters for art. She illuminates the ways in which museums in France, Britain and the U.S. engage their visitors in the performance of ritual scenarios and, through them, communicate and affirm ideas, values and social identities.

About the Author

Carol Duncan teaches art history at Ramapo College of New Jersey. She is well known as one of the pioneers of a new social-political approach to art history and criticism and has been one of the strongest feminist voices in the "new art history". Her essays have been collected in *The Aesthetics of Power* (1993).

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Carol Duncan looks at how nations, institutions and private individuals present art, and how art museums are shaped by cultural, social and political determinants.

Civilizing Rituals is ideal reading for students of art history and museum studies, and professionals in the field will also find much of interest here.

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This book was required reading in my undergraduate studies. It is one of the few I choose to have in my personal library as well.

Carol Duncan's book is small in size and easy to read. However, just because of its ease and size, don't mistake its value to art history. It is well researched and well edited. It is short, sweet and to the point. Too bad other art history books cannot be like that.

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By A Customer

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Carol Duncan's book delves into the reasons why we have art museums and then focusses in on some notable museums of today. The small book is an easy and quick read. However, its relative ease and small size does not mean it does not inform. It is well researched and well edited. It is short, sweet and to the point. Too bad more art history books are not like that.

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