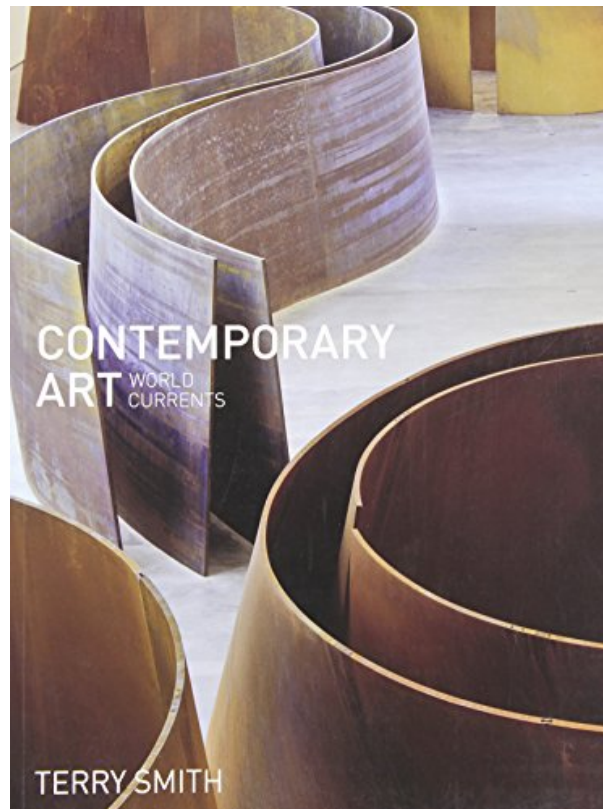
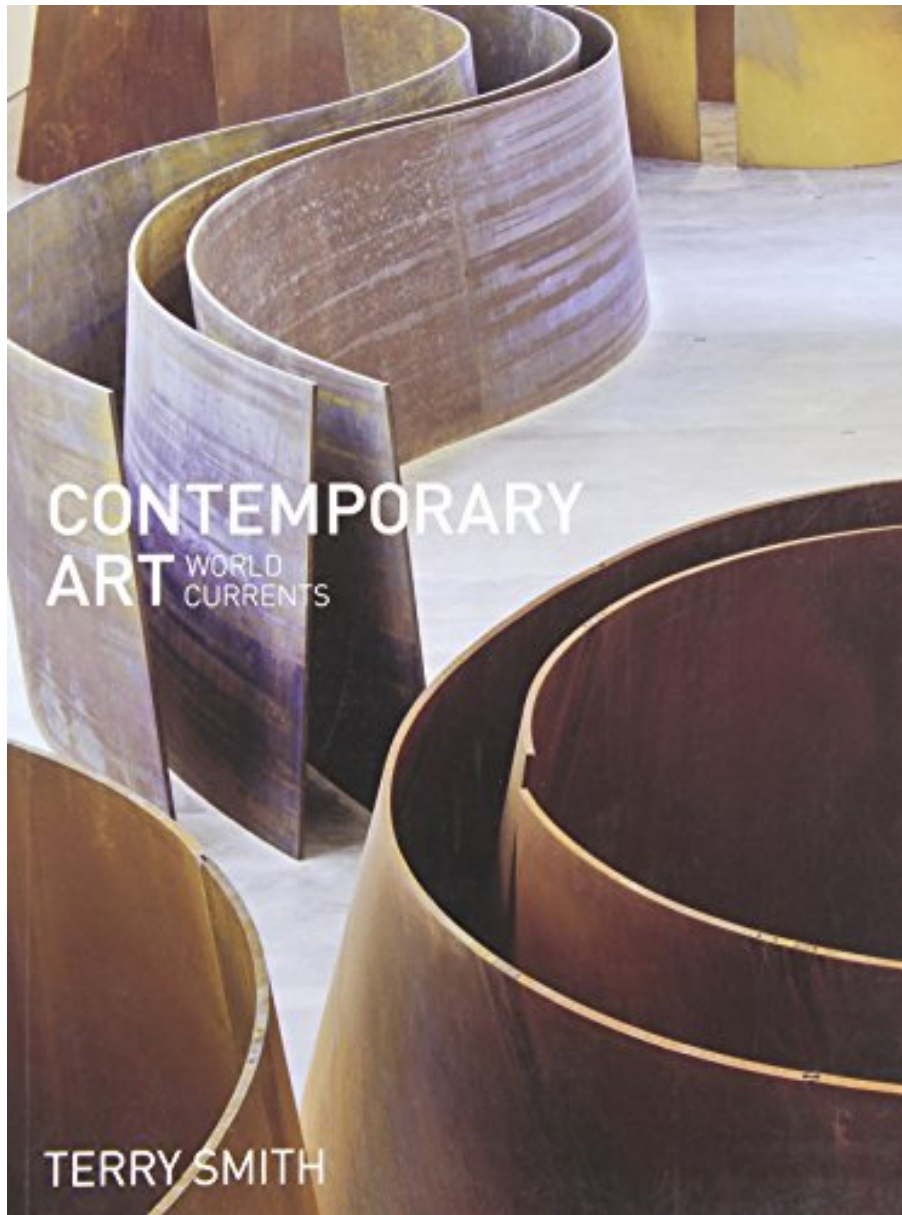


CONTEMPORARY ART: WORLD CURRENTS BY TERRY SMITH



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Review

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About the Author

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Contemporary Art: World Currents is the first comprehensive worldwide survey of contemporary art from the 1980s to the present day.

Author Terry Smith argues that, in recent decades, a global shift from modern to contemporary art has occurred: artists everywhere have embraced the contemporary world's teeming multiplicity, its proliferating differences and its challenging complexities and new technologies. Alongside more than 350 carefully selected color images of key works, Terry Smith offers the first account of these changes, from their historical beginnings to the present day. Exploring key works by both well known and little-known artists, the author shows how contemporary art achieved definitive force in the markets and museums of the major art centres during the 1980s and then became a global phenomenon as artworlds everywhere began to connect more closely: new communicative technologies and expanding social media are now shaping the future of art.

Contemporary Art: World Currents breaks new ground in tracing how modern, traditional and indigenous art became contemporary in each cultural region of the world, ranging across Western, East and Central Europe, North and South America and the Caribbean, Oceania, Africa, and the Middle East. Terry Smith lays the groundwork for a new comparative approach to contemporary art, emphasizing its relationships to all aspects of contemporary life. He argues that it is cultural diversity and individual artistic inventiveness, not a convergence towards sameness, which makes today's art contemporary.

Contemporary Art: World Currents brings the subject right up-to-date, highlighting the concerns of contemporary artists while giving the reader an invaluable insight to art today.

Teaching and Learning Experience

Improve Critical Thinking- Explore how contemporary art has become a global, connected phenomenon

Engage Students- Looks at the work of contemporary artists from across the world.

Support Instructors- Image PowerPoints slides are available for Contemporary Art: World Currents.

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Excellent for Teaching Global Contemporary Art

By 31u3b1rd

I have been using Contemporary Art: World Currents, along with Themes of Contemporary Art: Visual Art after 1980, for my Contemporary Art course. Although I like the thematic approach of Themes of Contemporary Art: Visual Art after 1980 and PBS's Art 21 series, I feel it is also extremely important for students to understand the historical context of works of art by geographical region. Smith does an excellent job providing essential historical background for each region the textbook covers. A work of art by a Chinese artist is not placed within a theme of, say, "memory," but rather within the historical context of post-Cultural Revolution China, with the Cultural Revolution and what it was explained. Smith makes clear connections between the historical context and the contemporary artworks, and provides helpful references to works from the 60s and 70s when relevant to contemporary practice. The artworks are beautifully illustrated in color, and he provides thoughtful interpretations for almost all of the works based on historical context, his own impressions, and on statements from the artists. Smith does cover some thematic issues, such as climate change and social media. I have incorporated these themes into my class along with those from Robertson's Themes of Contemporary Art. All of Smith's chapters address complex theoretical ideas, but they are clearly explained and illustrated by artworks in ways students understand. I have to say that of all the textbooks I've worked with over my years as an art history professor, this is one of the best.

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It's not too bad.

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Nice to see an up to date book on the subject. Recommend this book to anyone seriously interested in contemporary movements in art today.

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