



Seven Days in the Art World

By Sarah Thornton

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Contemporary art has become a mass entertainment, a luxury good, a job description and, for some, a kind of alternative religion. Sarah Thornton's shrewd and entertaining fly-on-the-wall narrative takes us behind the scenes of the art world, from art school to auction house, showing us how it works, and giving us a vivid sense of being there.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. The hot, hip contemporary art world, argues sociologist Thornton, is a cluster of intermingling subcultures unified by the belief, whether genuine or feigned, that nothing is more important than the art itself. It is a conviction, she asserts, that has transformed contemporary art into a kind of alternative religion for atheists. Thornton, a contributor to *Artforum.com* and the *New Yorker*, presents an astute and often entertaining ethnography of this status-driven world. Each of the seven chapters is a keenly observed profile of that world's highest echelons: a Christie's auction, a crit session at the California Institute of the Arts and the Art Basel art fair. The chapter on auctions (where one auction-goer explains, [I]t's dangerous to wear Prada.... You might get caught in the same outfit as three members of Christie's staff) is one of the book's strongest; the author's conversations about the role of the art critic with *Artforum* editor-in-chief Tim Griffin and the *New Yorker*'s Peter Schjeldahl are edifying. Thornton offers an elegant, evocative, sardonic view into some of the art world's most prestigious institutions. 8 illus. (Nov.)

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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Art and business, personal quests and personality cults, big bucks and the triumph of concept over beauty, being cool and in the know—these are the cardinal points in the contemporary art world. Enter Thornton, an art historian and sociologist with moxie and a brilliant game plan. Willing to ask obvious questions, she infiltrates the seven circles of this competitive realm. An astute observer and stimulating storyteller whose crisp sentences convey a wealth of information, Thornton marvels at the military precision of a Christie's auction and the wild improvisation of an art-school critique. On to Art Basel, a major international art fair where the “hard buy” rather than the hard sell is the rule since an artist's reputation is tied to those who own his or her work. Thornton witnesses the final stage in the judging and presentation of the Turner Prize, watches editors at work at *Artforum*, attends the coveted Venice Biennale, and spends a dizzying day with the wizardly artist-entrepreneur Takashi Murakami. Thornton's uniquely clarifying dispatches from the art front glimmer with high-definition profiles of artists, dealers, critics, and collectors, and grapple with the paradoxes inherent in the transformation of creativity into commodity. --
Donna Seaman

Review

'Parachutes the reader into the real nitty-gritty of how it all works - openings, dealers, artists, prizes, auctions et al. Reading this book is like having your own spy in the art world' Alan Yentob 'A thorough insight into the contemporary art world through seven fascinating stories ... a must-have for all art buffs' Tatler 'Curators and dealers provide the insider info and often the laughs, as the closed world of art is systematically demystified' Dazed and Confused 'An excellent, vivid, wittily written book - the characters are tightly drawn, the events covered are important, and the aphorisms come thick and fast - I'm hoping for a second volume' Sunday Times 'A lively, compulsive and splendidly gossipy manual' The Times 'Fascinating, not least because while she was researching and writing, it must have seemed like an insider's view of a world that would last forever. The book may now stand as its memorial' Art Quarterly 'A coherent account that's informative and entertaining - for a casual overview of how the international art scene operate, in all its ruthless eccentric, spectacular glory, Seven Days in the Art World is hard to beat' Jewish Quarterly

Users Review

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Precisely why? Because this Seven Days in the Art World is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap it but latter it will jolt you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who else write the book in such amazing way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of positive aspects than the other book possess such as help improving your proficiency and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I were being you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

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