



The material culture reader

Edited by Victor Buchli



Material Culture Reader

John H. Arnold



Material Culture Reader:

The Material Culture Reader Victor Buchli, 2002-11-01 Material culture has finally earned a central place within anthropology Emerging from the pioneering work done at University College London this reader brings together for the first time seminal articles that have helped shape the anthropological study of material culture With topics ranging from the anthropology of art to architecture landscape studies archaeology consumption studies and heritage management this key text reflects the breadth of material culture studies today The authors who discuss field sites as distant as Vanuatu New Ireland Trinidad and Soviet Russia show how material culture provides a new lens for viewing the world around us and effectively bridges the gap between theory and data Providing the first ever synthesis of these ground breaking essays in an easily accessible volume this book will serve as a comprehensive introduction to the subject and a valuable reference guide for anyone interested in material culture anthropology art and museum studies

The Visual Culture Reader Nicholas Mirzoeff, 2002 This thoroughly revised and updated second edition of The Visual Culture Reader brings together key writings as well as specially commissioned articles covering a wealth of visual forms including photography painting sculpture fashion advertising television cinema and digital culture The Reader features an introductory section tracing the development of visual culture studies in response to globalization and digital culture and articles grouped into thematic sections each prefaced by an introduction by the editor and conclude with suggestions for further reading

The Oxford Handbook of the Archaeology of the Contemporary World Paul Graves-Brown, Rodney Harrison, Angela Piccini, 2013-10 This Handbook is the first comprehensive survey of a rapidly expanding sub field in archaeology the study of the present and recent past It seeks to explore the boundaries of this emerging area to develop a tool kit of concepts and methods which are applicable to this new sub field and to suggest important future trajectories for research

The Palgrave Handbook of the Anthropology of Technology Maja Hojer Bruun, Ayo Wahlberg, Rachel Douglas-Jones, Cathrine Hasse, Klaus Hoeyer, Dorthe Brogård Kristensen, Brit Ross Winthereik, 2022-03-23 This Handbook offers an overview of the thriving and diverse field of anthropological studies of technology It features 39 original chapters each reviewing the state of the art of current research and enlivening the field of study through ethnographic analysis of human technology interfaces forms of social organisation technological practices and or systems of belief and meaning in different parts of the world The Handbook is organised around some of the most important characteristics of anthropological studies of technology today the diverse knowledge practices that technologies involve and on which they depend the communities collectives and categories that emerge around technologies anthropology's contribution to proliferating debates on ethics values and morality in relation to technology and infrastructures that highlight how all technologies are embedded in broader political economies and socio historical processes that shape and often reinforce inequality and discrimination while also generating diversity All chapters share a commitment to human experiences embodiments practices and materialities in the daily lives of those people and institutions

involved in the development manufacturing deployment and or use of particular technologies Chapters 11 and 31 are available open access under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License via link.springer.com

An Anthropology of Absence Mikkel Bille, Frida Hastrup, Tim Flohr Soerensen, 2010-03-24 In studying material culture anthropologists and archaeologists use meaningful physical objects from a culture to help understand the less tangible aspects of that culture such as societal structure rituals and values What happens when these objects are destroyed by war natural disaster or other historical events Through detailed explanations of eleven international case studies the contributions reveal that the absence of objects can be just as telling as their presence while the objects created to memorialize a loss also have important cultural implications Covering everything from organ donation to funerary rituals to prisoners of war *The Archaeology of Absence* is written at an important intersection of archaeological and anthropological study Divided into three sections this volume uses the presence of absence to compare cultural perceptions of material qualities and created memory the mind body connection temporality and death This rich text provides a strong theoretical framework for anthropologists and archaeologists studying material culture

The Archaeology of the Royal Flying Corps Melanie Winterton, 2022-10-07 Winterton's book is a good introductory effort on the haptic environment of World War I aviators and their personal artifacts The Journal of the Air Force Historical Foundation Archaeology provides a fascinating insight into the lives of the aviators of the First World War Their descriptions of the sensation of flying in the open cockpits of the primitive warplanes of the day and the artifacts that have survived from these first years of aerial combat give us a powerful sense of what their wartime service was like and chart the beginning of our modern understanding of aviation But the subject hasn't been explored in any depth before which is why Melanie Winterton's pioneering book is so timely Hers is the first study of the trench art souvenirs and lucky mascots associated with the Royal Flying Corps which in an original way tell us so much about the experience of flying on the Western Front a century ago Extensive quotations from the memoirs of these early airmen are combined with an analysis of the artifacts themselves They convey something of the fear and anxiety the airmen had to grapple with on a daily basis and bring out the full significance of the poignant souvenirs they left behind Pieces of crashed aeroplane wooden propellers strips of linen fragments of metal were recycled and circulated during the war and afterwards became the focus of attention in the domestic home As Melanie Winterton demonstrates these items connected the living with the deceased which is why they are so strongly evocative even today

The SAGE Handbook of Cultural Analysis Tony Bennett, John Frow, 2008-03-26 A genuine one stop reference point for the many many differing strands of cultural analysis This isn't just one contender among many for the title of best multidisciplinary overview this is a true heavyweight Matt Hills Cardiff University An achievement and a delight both compelling and useful Beverley Skeggs Goldsmiths University of London With the cultural turn the concept of culture has assumed enormous importance in our understanding of the interrelations between social political and economic structures patterns of everyday interaction and

systems of meaning making In The SAGE Handbook of Cultural Analysis the leading figures in their fields explore the implications of this paradigm shift Part I looks at the major disciplines of knowledge in the humanities and social sciences asking how they have been reshaped by the cultural turn and how they have elaborated distinctive new objects of knowledge Parts II and III examine the questions arising from a practice of analysis in which the researcher is drawn reflexively into the object of study and in which methodological frameworks are rarely given in advance Addressed to academics and advanced students in all fields of the social sciences and humanities The SAGE Handbook of Cultural Analysis is at once a synthesis of advances in the field with a comprehensive coverage of the scholarly literature and a collection of original and provocative essays by some of the brightest intellectuals of our time

Narrating Objects, Collecting Stories Sandra H. Dudley, Amy Jane Barnes, Jennifer Binnie, Julia Petrov, Jennifer Walklate, 2012-06-14 Narrating Objects Collecting Stories is a wide ranging collection of essays exploring the stories that can be told about objects and those who choose to collect them Examining objects and collecting in different historical social and institutional contexts an international interdisciplinary group of authors consider the meanings and values with which objects are imputed and the processes and implications of collecting This includes considering the entanglement of objects and collectors alike in webs of social relations the creation of value and social change object biographies and the stories often conflicting that objects come to represent and the strategies used to reconstruct and retell the narratives of objects The book includes considerations of individual objects and groups of objects such as domestic interiors Chinese Buddhist artefacts novelty tea pots Scottish stone monuments African ironworking a postcolonial painting and memorials to those killed on the roads in Australia It also contains chapters dealing with particular collectors including Charles Bell and Beatrix Potter and representational techniques

Museums Mary Bouquet, 2013-07-18 Museums A Visual Anthropology provides a clear and concise summary of the key ideas debates and texts of the most important approaches to the study of museums from around the world The book examines ways to address the social relations of museums embedded in their sites collections and exhibitions as an integral part of the visual and material culture they comprise Cross disciplinary in scope Museums uses ideas and approaches both from within and outside of anthropology to further students knowledge of and interest in museums Including selected globally based case studies to highlight and exemplify important issues the book also contains suggested Further Reading for each chapter for students to expand their learning independently Exploring fundamental methods and approaches to engage this constantly evolving time machine Museums will be essential reading for students of anthropology and museum studies

Creating Authenticity Alexander Geurds, Laura Van Broekhoven, 2013-11-27 Authenticity and authentication is at the heart of museums concerns in displays objects and interaction with visitors These notions have formed a central element in early thought on culture and collecting Nineteenth century explorers commissioned museum collectors and pioneering ethnographers attempted to lay bare the essences of cultures through collecting and studying objects from distant communities Comparably historical

archaeology departed from the idea that cultures were discrete bounded entities subject to divergence but precisely therefore also to be traced back and linked to a more complete original form in the even deeper past. Much of what we work with today in ethnographic museum collections testifies to that conviction. Post structural thinking brought about a far reaching deconstruction of the authentic. It came to be recognized that both far away communities and the deep past can only be discussed when seen as desires, constructions and inventions. Notwithstanding this undressing of the ways in which people portray their cultural surroundings and past claims of authenticity and quests for authentication remain omnipresent. This book explores the authentic in contemporary ethnographic museums as it persists in dialogues with stakeholders and how museums portray themselves. How do we interact with questions of authenticity and authentication when we curate, study artefacts, collect, repatriate and make representations? The contributing authors illustrate the divergent nature in which the authentic is brought into play, deconstructed and operationalized. Authenticity, the book argues, is an expression of a desire that is equally troubled as it is resilient.

Archaeology of Identity Margarita Diaz-Andreu, Sam Lucy, 2007-05-07 Bringing together a wealth of scholarship which provides a unique integrated approach to identity. The Archaeology of Identity presents an overview of the five key areas which have recently emerged in archaeological social theory: gender, age, ethnicity, religion, status. This excellent book reviews the research history of each area, the different ways in which each has been investigated and offers new avenues for research and exploring the connections between them. Emphasis is placed on exploring the ways in which material culture structures and is structured by these aspects of individual and communal identity, with a particular examination of social practice. Useful for social scientists in sociology, anthropology and history, under and postgraduates will find this an excellent addition to their course studies.

The Oxford Handbook of Medieval Christianity John H. Arnold, 2014-08-21 The Oxford Handbook of Medieval Christianity takes as its subject the beliefs, practices and institutions of the Christian Church between 400 and 1500AD. It addresses topics ranging from early medieval monasticism to late medieval mysticism, from the material wealth of the Church to the spiritual exercises through which certain believers might attempt to improve their souls. Each chapter tells a story but seeks also to ask how and why Christianity took particular forms at particular moments in history, paying attention to both the spiritual and otherworldly aspects of religion and the material and political contexts in which they were often embedded. This Handbook is a landmark academic collection that presents cutting edge interpretive perspectives on medieval religion for a wide academic audience, drawing together thirty key scholars in the field from the United States, the UK and Europe. Notably, the Handbook is arranged thematically and focusses on an analytical rather than narrative approach, seeking to demonstrate the variety, change and complexity of religion throughout this long period and the numerous different ways in which modern scholarship can approach it. While providing a very wide ranging view of the subject, it also offers an important agenda for further study in the field.

Indispensable Eyesores Mélanie van der Hoorn, 2009-05-01 Collapsing concrete colossuses run down

overgrown skeletons immutable architectural misfits the outcasts from our built environment which we are dying to dispose of and yet cannot do without have inspired many ghost stories crime novels and urban legends Such narratives reveal the significance of architectural eyesores for the people who live or work in or near them After exploring various approaches to building lives and deaths the author presents a rich variety of undesired edifices in Germany Hungary Austria and Bosnia Herzegovina and investigates the different methods used to dispose of them eliminating damaging transforming or reframing them abandoning them to progressive dilapidation or virtually rejecting them Discarding an edifice however need not bring its social life to an end This analysis continues with a reflection on the afterlife of unwanted buildings and concludes with a discussion on the life expectancy of buildings their multi sensory materiality and thingly agency

The Handbook of Sociocultural Anthropology James G. Carrier, Deborah B. Gewertz, 2020-06-29 The Handbook of Sociocultural Anthropology presents a state of the art overview of the subject its methodologies current debates history and future It will provide the ultimate source of authoritative critical descriptions of all the key aspects of the discipline as well as a consideration of the general state of the discipline at a time when there is notable uncertainty about its foundations composition and direction Divided into five core sections the Handbook examines the changing theoretical and analytical orientations that have led to new ways of carrying out research presents an analysis of the traditional historical core and how the discipline has changed since 1980 considers the ethnographic regions where work has had the greatest impact on anthropology as a whole outlines the people and institutions that are the context in which the discipline operates covering topics from research funding to professional ethics Bringing together leading international scholars the Handbook provides a guide to the latest research in social and cultural anthropology Presenting a systematic overview and offering a wide range of examples insights and analysis it will be an invaluable resource for researchers and students in anthropology as well as cultural and social geography cultural studies and sociology

Boundaries of Jewish Identity Susan A Glenn, Naomi B. Sokoloff, 2011-07-01 The subject of Jewish identity is one of the most vexed and contested issues of modern religious and ethnic group history This interdisciplinary collection draws on work in law anthropology history sociology literature and popular culture to consider contemporary and historical responses to the question Who and what is Jewish These essays are focused especially on the issues of who creates the definitions and how and in what social and political contexts The ten leading authorities writing here also look at the forces ranging from new genetic and reproductive technologies to increasingly multicultural societies that push against established boundaries The authors examine how Jews have imagined themselves and how definitions of Jewishness have been established enforced challenged and transformed Does being a Jew require religious belief practice and formal institutional affiliation Is there a biological or physical aspect of Jewish identity What is the status of the convert to another religion How do definitions play out in different geographic and historical settings What makes Boundaries of Jewish Identity distinctive is its attention to the various Jewish epistemologies or ways of knowing who counts as a Jew These

essays reveal that possible answers reflect the different social intellectual and political locations of those who are asking This book speaks to readers concerned with Jewish life and culture and to audiences interested in religious cultural and ethnic studies It provides an excellent opportunity to examine how Jews fit into an increasingly diverse America and an increasingly complicated global society

The Routledge International Handbook of Globalization Studies Bryan S. Turner, 2011 This title offers students clear and informed chapters on the history of globalization and key theories that have considered the causes and consequences of the globalization process There are substantive sections looking at demographic economic technological social and cultural changes in globalization

Social Matter(s) Tryfon Bampilis, Pieter ter Keurs, 2014 This book is inspired by material culture studies Essays center on the idea that matter and materiality are integral dimensions of social life The diversity of their subjects is reflected in the various approaches that bring together archeology cultural heritage artifacts commodities the human body and the study of space United by a common interest in various social matter s and coming from diverse schools of thought and academic traditions the book is by no means an effort to present a clear cohesive collective manifesto On the contrary there might be differences in the way each of the contributors discusses materiality matter thingness things and artifacts There are varied understandings of the terms and there are references to different sources and schools of thought Series Ethnologie Forschung und Wissenschaft Vol 23

Hellenomania Katherine Harloe, Nicoletta Momigliano, Alexandre Farnoux, 2018-01-29 *Hellenomania* the second volume in the MANIA series presents a wide ranging multi disciplinary exploration of the modern reception of ancient Greek material culture in cultural practices ranging from literature to architecture stage and costume design painting sculpture cinema and the performing arts It examines both canonical and less familiar responses to both real and imagined Greek antiquities from the seventeenth century to the present across various national contexts Encompassing examples from Inigo Jones to the contemporary art exhibition documenta 14 and from Thessaloniki and Delphi to Nashville the contributions examine attempted reconstructions of an authentic ancient Greece alongside imaginative and utopian efforts to revive the Greek spirit using modern technologies new media and experimental practices of the body Also explored are the political resonances of Hellenomaniac fascinations and tensions within them between the ideal and the real the past present and future Part I examines the sources and derivations of Hellenomania from the Baroque and pre Romantic periods to the early twentieth century While covering more canonical material than the following sections it also casts spotlights on less familiar figures and sets the scene for the illustrations of successive waves of Hellenomania explored in subsequent chapters Part II focuses on responses uses and appropriations of ancient Greek material culture in the built environment mostly architecture but also extends to painting and even gymnastics it examines in particular how a certain idealisation of ancient Greek architecture affected its modern applications Part III explores challenges to the idealisation of ancient Greece through the transformative power of colour movement and of reliving the past in the present human body especially female Part IV looks at how the fascination with the

material culture of ancient Greece can move beyond the obsession with Greece and Greekness *Rethinking the Age of Emancipation* Martin Baumeister, Philipp Lenhard, Ruth Nattermann, 2020-03-20 Since the end of the nineteenth century traditional historiography has emphasized the similarities between Italy and Germany as late nations including the parallel roles of great men such as Bismarck and Cavour *Rethinking the Age of Emancipation* aims at a critical reassessment of the development of these two late nations from a new and transnational perspective Essays by an international and interdisciplinary group of scholars examine the discursive relationships among nationalism war and emancipation as well as the ambiguous roles of historical protagonists with competing national political and religious loyalties **Engaging**

Smithsonian Objects through Science, History, and the Arts Mary Jo Arnoldi, 2016-01-05 How do we come to know the world around us What about worlds apart from our own outer space distant cultures or even long past eras of history *Engaging Smithsonian Objects through Science History and the Arts* explores these questions and suggests an answer we come to know our world and worlds apart through the objects that represent them Objects are a window and by looking through them we can learn and understand more about the people who made them and the time and place they came from In the pursuit of this understanding museums are invaluable they are repositories not just of things but also of past present and future knowledge *Engaging Smithsonian Objects* puts these ideas into practice using objects to bring us to new knowledge and showing how museums support us in the endeavor The book is organized around ten objects from the Smithsonian's vast collections Some of the objects are iconic the Ruby Slippers from the *The Wizard of Oz* or three Stradivarius string instruments while others are more ordinary though no less interesting an Iron Lung or a Hawaiian gourd drum Two different authors with expertise in different academic disciplines write about each object from their unique professional and personal perspective Both the authors and the ten featured objects represent a range of academic disciplines from art to anthropology to geology Taken together the twenty essays in the book demonstrate just how much we can learn from objects by considering their kaleidoscopic meaning and significance from a variety of viewpoints The book's interdisciplinary engagement with objects was inspired by the Smithsonian Material Culture Forum now in its twenty sixth year For students of material culture and museum studies this book illustrates the vitality and value of exploring material culture through the lens of intersecting disciplinary perspectives For students of curiosity and lifelong learning this book offers a lively and thoughtful look into the Smithsonian's collection and the many vibrant worlds it represents Richly illustrated with color plates and photographs throughout *Engaging Smithsonian Objects through Science History and the Arts* is a beautiful and stimulating answer to the question How do we know our world and how can we know more

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