The Last Writings of Thomas S. Kuhn

Incommensurability in Science

Edited by Bojana Mladenović

DECEMBER | 312 p. | 25 halftones | 6 x 9 | Cloth $27.50


Kuhn’s aims in his last writings are bold. He sets out to develop an empirically grounded theory of meaning that would allow him to make sense of both the possibility of historical understanding and the inevitability of incommensurability between past and present science. In his view, incommensurability is fully compatible with a robust notion of the real world that science investigates, the rationality of scientific change, and the idea that scientific development is progressive.

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Editor’s Introduction
Editor’s Note
Thomas S. Kuhn: Scientific Knowledge as Historical Product
Abstract for “The Presence of Past Science (The Shearman Memorial Lectures)”
Thomas S. Kuhn: The Presence of Past Science (The Shearman Memorial Lectures)
  Lecture I: Regaining the Past
  Lecture II: Portraying the Past
  Lecture III: Embodying the Past
Abstract for *The Plurality of Worlds: An Evolutionary Theory of Scientific Development*
Thomas S. Kuhn: The Plurality of Worlds: An Evolutionary Theory of Scientific Development
  Acknowledgments
  Part I: The Problem
    Chapter 1: Scientific Knowledge as Historical Product
    Chapter 2: Breaking into the Past
    Chapter 3: Taxonomy and Incommensurability
  Part II: A World of Kinds
    Chapter 4: Biological Prerequisites to Linguistic Description: Track and Situations
    Chapter 5: Natural Kinds: How Their Names Mean
  Chapter 6: Practices, Theories, and Artefactual Kinds
Bibliography
Editor’s Acknowledgments
Notes
Index
“Get in the Game is a playful and welcoming introduction to the interplay between sports and math. Assuming no math and using only a coin and a die, Chartier artfully illustrates why sports analytics matter through the simplest of questions: how do we measure greatness? This is a must read for anyone curious about the analytical side of sport.”—John Urschel, coauthor of Mind and Matter: A Life in Math and Football

Tim Chartier is the Joseph R. Morton Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science at Davidson College. He has fielded analytics questions from ESPN, the New York Times, the US Olympic and Paralympic Committee, and teams in the NBA, NFL, and NASCAR. Among his numerous books, he is the author of Math Bytes: Google Bombs, Chocolate-Covered Pi, and Other Cool Bits in Computing.

Get in the Game
An Interactive Introduction to Sports Analytics
Illustrated by Ansley Earle

SEPTEMBER | 160 p. | 198 halftones | 6 x 9 | Paper $18.00

In 2013, NBA shooter Steph Curry wowed crowds when he sank eleven out of thirteen three-pointers—only seven other players, including the likes of Michael Jordan and Kobe Bryant, had scored more in the history of games at Madison Square Garden. Four years later, the University of Connecticut women’s basketball team won their one-hundredth straight game, defeating South Carolina 66–55. And in 2010, one sports forecaster—an octopus named Paul—correctly predicted the outcome of all of Germany’s matches in the FIFA World Cup. These are surprising events—but are they truly improbable?

In Get in the Game, mathematician and sports analytics expert Tim Chartier helps us answer that question—condensing complex data modeling down to coin tosses and dice throws to give readers both an introduction to statistics and a new way to enjoy sporting events. With these accessible tools, Chartier leads us through modeling experiments that develop our intuitive sense of the improbable. For example, to see how likely you are to beat Curry’s three-pointer feat, consider his 45.3 percent three-point shooting average in 2012–13. Take a coin and assume heads is making the shot (slightly better than Curry at a fifty percent chance). Can you imagine getting heads eleven out of thirteen times? With engaging exercises and fun, comic book–style illustrations by Ansley Earle, Chartier’s book encourages all readers—including those who have never encountered formal statistics, data simulations, or even heard of sports analytics, but enjoy watching sports—to get in the game.

TABLE OF CONTENTS
1 Unforgettably Unbelievable
2 Shoot 3’s Like Steph Curry
3 Dicey Hitting Streak
4 Racking Up the Wins
5 Unbreakable Tennis
6 Improbable NFL Playoff
7 FIFA Octopus Oracle
8 Super-sized Super Bowl TD
9 Scoring Confidence
10 Tiger’s Consistency
11 Moneyball Analytics
12 Race Usain Bolt
13 Get in the Game
Acknowledgments
Further Reading
Personal Training—Answers
As environmental, political, and public health crises multiply on Earth, we are also at the dawn of a new space race in which governments team up with celebrity billionaires to exploit the cosmos for human gain. The best-known of these pioneers are selling different visions of the future: while Elon Musk and SpaceX seek to establish a human presence on Mars, Jeff Bezos and Blue Origin work toward moving millions of earthlings into rotating near-Earth habitats. Despite these distinctions, these two billionaires share a core utopian project: the salvation of humanity through the exploitation of space.

In *Astrotopia*, philosopher of science and religion Mary-Jane Rubenstein pulls back the curtain on the not-so-new myths these space barons are peddling, like growth without limit, energy without guilt, and salvation in a brand-new world. As Rubenstein reveals, we have already seen the destructive effects of this frontier zealotry in the centuries-long history of European colonialism. Much like the imperial project on Earth, this renewed effort to conquer space is presented as a religious calling: in the face of a coming apocalypse, some very wealthy messiahs are offering an other-worldly escape to a chosen few. But Rubenstein does more than expose the values of capitalist technoscience as the product of bad mythologies. She offers a vision of exploring space without reproducing the atrocities of earthly colonialism, encouraging us to find and even make stories that put cosmic caretaking over profiteering.

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Preface

Introduction: We Hold This Myth to Be Potential

1. Our Infinite Future in Infinite Space

2. Creation and Conquest

3. The American Promised Land

4. The Final Frontier

5. Whose Space Is It?

6. The Rights of Rocks

7. Other Spacetimes

Conclusion: Revolt of the Pantheists

Acknowledgments

Notes

Bibliography

Index
CLARA E. MATTEI

The Capital Order
How Economists Invented Austerity and Paved the Way to Fascism

NOVEMBER | 480 p. | 3 halftones, 8 line drawings, 3 tables | 6 x 9 | Cloth $30.00

For more than a century, governments facing financial crisis have resorted to the economic policies of austerity—cuts to wages, fiscal spending, and public benefits—as a path to solvency. While these policies have been successful in appeasing creditors, they’ve had devastating effects on social and economic welfare in countries all over the world. Today, as austerity remains a favored policy among troubled states, an important question remains: what if solvency was never really the goal?

In The Capital Order, political economist Clara E. Mattei explores the intellectual origins of austerity to uncover its originating motives: the protection of capital—and indeed capitalism—in times of social upheaval from below.

Mattei traces modern austerity to its origins in interwar Britain and Italy, revealing how the threat of working-class power in the years after World War I animated a set of top-down economic policies that elevated owners, smothered workers, and imposed a rigid economic hierarchy across their societies. Where these policies “succeeded,” relatively speaking, was in their enrichment of certain parties, including employers and foreign-trade interests, who accumulated power and capital at the expense of labor. Here, Mattei argues, is where the true value of austerity can be observed: its insulation of entrenched privilege and its elimination of all alternatives to capitalism.

Drawing on newly uncovered archival material from Britain and Italy, much of it translated for the first time, The Capital Order offers a damning and essential new account of the rise of austerity—and of modern economics—at the levers of contemporary political power.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction

Part I: War and Crisis
1. The Great War and the Economy
2. “A Wholly New School of Thought”
3. The Struggle for Economic Democracy
4. The New Order

Part II: The Meaning of Austerity
5. International Technocrats and the Making of Austerity
6. Austerity, a British Story
7. Austerity, an Italian Story
8. Italian Austerity and Fascism through British Eyes
9. Austerity and Its “Successes”
10. Austerity Forever
Afterword
Acknowledgments
Notes
Bibliography
Index

Clara E. Mattei is assistant professor of economics at the New School for Social Research in New York City.
The Tragic Science
How Economists Cause Harm (Even as They Aspire to Do Good)

AUGUST | 272 p. | 17 line drawings, 6 tables | 6 x 9 | Cloth $35.00

The practice of economics, as economists will tell you, is a powerful force for good. Economists are the guardians of the world’s economies and financial systems. The applications of economic theory can alleviate poverty, reduce disease, and promote sustainability.

While this narrative has been successfully propagated by economists, it belies a more challenging truth: economic interventions, including those economists deem successful, also cause harm. Sometimes the harm is manageable and short-lived. But just as often the harm is deep, enduring, and even irreparable. And too often the harm falls on those least able to survive it.

In *The Tragic Science*, George F. DeMartino says what economists have too long repressed: that economists do great harm even as they aspire to do good. Economist-induced harm, DeMartino shows, results in part from economists’ “irreparable ignorance”—from the fact that they know far less than they tend to believe they know—and from disciplinary training that treats the human tolls of economic policies and interventions as simply the costs of promoting social betterment. DeMartino details the complicated nature of economic harm, explores economists’ frequent failure to recognize it, and makes a sobering case for professional humility and for genuine respect for those who stand to be harmed by economists’ practice.

At a moment in history when the power of the economics profession is enormous, DeMartino’s work demonstrates the downside of that influence and the responsibility facing those who practice the tragic science.
In the 1750s, at the urging of famed adventurer Giacomo Casanova, the French state began to embrace risk in adopting a new Loterie. The prize amounts paid varied, depending on the number of tickets bought and the amount of the bet, as determined by each individual bettor. The state could lose money on any individual Loterie drawing while being statistically guaranteed to come out on top in the long run. In adopting this framework, the French state took on risk in a way no other has, before or after. At each drawing the state was at risk of losing a large amount; what is more, that risk was precisely calculable, generally well understood, and yet taken on by the state with little more than a mathematical theory to protect it.

Stephen M. Stigler follows the Loterie from its curious inception through its hiatus during the French Revolution, its renewal and expansion in 1797, and finally to its suppression in 1836, examining throughout the wider question of how members of the public came to trust in new financial technologies and believe in their value. Drawing from an extensive collection of rare ephemera, Stigler pieces together the Loterie’s remarkable inner workings, as well as its implications for the nature of risk and the role of lotteries in social life over the period 1700–1950.

Both a fun read and fodder for many fields, Casanova’s Lottery shines new light on the conscious introduction of risk into the management of a nation-state and the rationality of playing unfair games.

**HISTORY**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Introduction
One: Casanova
Two: The Genoese Lottery
Three: The Establishment of the Loterie
Four: Problems and Adjustments in the Early Drawings
Five: Antoine Blanquet and the Great Expansion of 1776
Six: The Introduction of Bonus Numbers: Les Primes Gratuites
Seven: The Spread of the Loterie in Europe
Eight: Data Security: The Design of the Tickets
Nine: The Loterie and the Revolution
Ten: Was the Loterie Fair?
Eleven: Dreams and Astrology: The Bettors and the Loterie
Twelve: The Number 45 and the Maturity of Chances
Thirteen: How Much Did They Bet and Where?
Fourteen: Muskets, Fine-Tuned Risk, and Voltaire
Fifteen: The Loterie in Textbooks and Manuals
Sixteen: The Suppression of the Loterie in 1836
Conclusion
Acknowledgments
Appendix 1. Probability
Appendix 2. Laplace’s Lottery Theorem
References
Index

"The writing is absolutely clear and readable—a wonderful example of the possibility of writing about serious scholarly matters in a way that allows the reader to share in the author’s expertise. It’s remarkable how accessible Stigler makes the technical material on probability and statistics, again without any simplifications that would take away from the seriousness of the treatment. This is truly an unusually well-written book."
—Justin E. H. Smith, author of The Internet Is Not What You Think It Is

Stephen M. Stigler is the Ernest DeWitt Burton Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Statistics and the College at the University of Chicago. He is the author of several books, including The History of Statistics and The Seven Pillars of Statistical Wisdom.
MATTHEW NORTON

The Punishment of Pirates

Interpretation and Institutional Order in the Early Modern British Empire

JANUARY | 240 p. | 1 halftone, 2 line drawings, 1 table | 6 x 9 | Cloth $99.00  Paper $30.00

Early in the seventeenth-century boom of seafaring, piracy was a fertile ground for many enterprising and lawless young men to make fortunes on the high seas, due in no small part to the lack of policing by the British crown. But as the British empire grew from being a collection of far-flung territories into a consolidated economic and political enterprise dependent on long-distance trade, pirates suddenly became a tremendous threat. This development is traced by sociologist Matthew Norton in *The Punishment of Pirates*, taking the reader on an exciting journey through the shifting legal status of pirates in the eighteenth century. Norton shows us that eliminating this threat required an institutional shift; first identifying and defining piracy, and then brutally policing it. *The Punishment of Pirates* develops a new framework for understanding the cultural mechanisms involved in dividing, classifying, and constructing institutional order by tracing the transformation of piracy from a situation of cultivated ambiguity to a criminal category with violently patrolled boundaries—ending with its eradication as a systemic threat to trade in the English empire. Replete with gun battles, executions, jailbreaks, and courtroom dramas, Norton’s book will offer insights for social theorists, political scientists, and historians alike.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction: Meanings and Mass Executions
1. Institutions as Cultural Systems
2. The Transformations of Empire
3. Vagueness and Violence on the Maritime Periphery
4. The Classification of Pirates
5. Guns, Gallows, and Interpretive Infrastructures
6. “Hung Up in Irons, to Be a Spectacle, and So a Warning to Others”
7. Ambiguity Lost: Temporality and Fatalism on the Edge of Empire
Conclusion: Pirates, Adverbs, and Institutions
Acknowledgments
Notes
References
Index
Mackenzie Cooley is assistant professor of history and director of the Latin American Studies program at Hamilton College in New York.

The Perfection of Nature
Animals, Breeding, and Race in the Renaissance

The Renaissance is celebrated for the belief that individuals could fashion themselves to greatness, but there is a dark undercurrent to this fêted era of history. The same men and women who offered profound advancements in European understanding of the human condition—and laid the foundations of the Scientific Revolution—were also obsessed with controlling that condition and the wider natural world.

Tracing early modern artisanal practice, Mackenzie Cooley shows how the idea of race and theories of inheritance developed through animal breeding in the shadow of the Spanish Empire. While one strand of the Renaissance celebrated a liberal view of human potential, another limited it by biology, reducing man to beast and prince to stud. “Race,” Cooley explains, first referred to animal stock honed through breeding. To those who invented the concept, race was not inflexible, but the fragile result of reproductive work. As the Spanish empire expanded, the concept of race moved from nonhuman to human animals. Cooley reveals how, as the dangerous idea of controlled reproduction was brought to life again and again, a rich, complex, and ever-shifting language of race and breeding was born.

Adding nuance and historical context to discussions of race and human and animal relations, The Perfection of Nature provides a close reading of undertheorized notions of generation and its discontents in the more-than-human world.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Illustrations
A Note on Terms and Orthography
Introduction

Part I: Knowing and Controlling Animal Generation
Chapter 1. Breeders as Philosophers
Chapter 2. Razz-Making and Branding

Part II: A Divergence in Breeding
Chapter 3. Razz-Making at a European Court
Chapter 4. Corn, Seed, Blood in Mesoamerica

Part III: A Brave New Natural World
Chapter 5. Canine Mestizaje

Chapter 6. Camelids and Christian Nature

Part IV: Difference in European Thought
Chapter 7. Thinking Through Conversion, Lineage, and Population: José de Acosta
Chapter 8. Seeing Inside from the Outside: Giovanni Battista della Porta
Epilogue
Acknowledgments
Abbreviations
Notes
Bibliography
Index
The early first millennium BCE marks one of the most culturally diverse periods in the history of the eastern Mediterranean. Surveying the region from Greece to Iraq, one finds a host of cultures and political formations, all distinct, yet all visibly connected in meaningful ways. These include the early polities of Geometric period Greece, the Phrygian kingdom of central Anatolia, the Syro-Anatolian city-states, the seafaring Phoenicians and the biblical Israelites of the southern Levant, Egypt’s Twenty-first through Twenty-fifth Dynasties, the Urartian kingdom of the eastern Anatolian highlands, and the expansionary Neo-Assyrian Empire of northern Mesopotamia. This volume adopts an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the social and political significance of how interregional networks operated within and between Mediterranean cultures during that era.
AZZAN YADIN-ISRAEL

Temptation Transformed
The Story of How the Forbidden Fruit Became an Apple

How did the apple, unmentioned by the Bible, become the dominant symbol of temptation, sin, and the Fall? *Temptation Transformed* pursues this mystery across art and religious history, uncovering where, when, and why the forbidden fruit became an apple.

Azzan Yadin-Israel reveals that Eden’s fruit, once thought to be a fig or a grape, first appears as an apple in twelfth-century French art. He then traces this image back to its source in medieval storytelling. Though scholars often blame theologians for the apple, accounts of the Fall written in commonly spoken languages—French, German, and English—影响ed a broader audience than cloistered Latin commentators. Yadin-Israel shows that, over time, the words for “fruit” in these languages narrowed until an apple in the Garden became self-evident. A wide-ranging study of early Christian thought, Renaissance art, and medieval languages, *Temptation Transformed* offers an eye-opening revisionist history of a central religious icon.

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

- List of Illustrations
- Introduction: The Curious Case of the Apple
- 1. The Missing Apple
- 2. A Bad Latin Apple
- 3. The Iconographic Apple
- 4. The Vernacular Apple
- Conclusion: A Scholarly Reflection
- Acknowledgments
- Appendix: Inventory of Fall of Man Scenes
- Abbreviations
- Notes
- Bibliography
- Index

“Azzan Yadin-Israel’s thoroughness in investigating sources across time, language, and media is impressive; at the same time, this scholarly rigor is accompanied by great lucidity of tone and argument as well as a sense of humor that, collectively, will make the book useful, illuminating, and enjoyable for a popular as well as a scholarly audience.”—Claire M. Waters, University of California, Davis

“A cornucopia of insights from language, literature and art history, *Temptation Transformed* provides compelling evidence for a new understanding of the development of the apple tradition in medieval France. I read it with great interest and will use his historical insights every time I teach Genesis.”—John H. Walton, author of *The Lost World of Adam and Eve*

Azzan Yadin-Israel is professor of Jewish studies and classics at Rutgers University. He is the author of several books, including *The Grace of God and the Grace of Man: The Theologies of Bruce Springsteen.*
Eliran Bar-El is a lecturer in sociology at the University of York.

Slovenian philosopher bad boy Slavoj Žižek is one of the most famous intellectuals of our time, publishing at a breakneck speed and lecturing around the world. With his unmistakable speaking style and set of mannerisms that have made him ripe material for internet humor and meme culture, he is recognizable to a wide spectrum of fans and detractors. But how did an intellectual from a remote Eastern European country come to such popular notoriety? In How Slavoj Became Žižek, sociologist Eliran Bar-El plumbs the emergence, popularization, and development of this phenomenon called “Žižek.”

Beginning with Žižek’s early years as a thinker and political figure in Slovenian civil society, Bar-El traces Žižek’s rise from Marxist philosopher to a political candidate to eventual intellectual celebrity as Žižek perfects his unique performative style and a rhetorical arsenal of “Hegelacanese.” Following 9/11, Žižek’s career as a global op-ed writer and TV commentator married his rhetoric with global events such as the War on Terror, the financial crisis of 2008, and the Arab Spring of 2011. Yet, at the same time, this mainstream popularity, as well as a series of politically incorrect views, almost entirely estranged the Slovenian from the normal workings of academia. Ultimately, this account shows how Žižek harnessed the power of the digital era in his own self-fashioning as a public intellectual.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Figures
Introduction
1 Slovenia between East and West: The Origin of Superpositioning
2 If at First You Don’t Succeed: The Emergence of Hegelacanese
3 Going Global: Narrating the (Traumatic) Present
4 The End of Žižek: Performing the Sacrificial Intellectual
Conclusion
Acknowledgments
Notes
Index
Questions about the naturalness or unnaturalness of homosexuality are as old as the hills, and the answers have often been used to condemn homosexuals, their behaviors, and their relationships. In the past two centuries, a number of sciences have involved themselves in this debate, introducing new vocabularies, theories, arguments, and data, many of which gradually helped tip the balance towards tolerance and even acceptance. In this book, philosophers Pieter R. Adriaens and Andreas De Block explore the history and philosophy of the gay sciences, revealing how individual and societal values have colored how we think about homosexuality.

The authors unpack the entanglement of facts and values in studies of male homosexuality across the natural and human sciences and consider the extent to which science has mitigated or reinforced homonegative mores. The focus of the book is on homosexuality’s assumed naturalness. Geneticists rephrased naturalness as innateness, claiming that homosexuality is innate—colloquially, that homosexuals are born gay. Zoologists thought it a natural affair, documenting its existence in myriad animal species, from maybugs to men. Evolutionists presented homosexuality as the product of natural selection and speculated about its adaptive value. Finally, psychiatrists, who had initially pathologized homosexuality, eventually appealed to its naturalness or innateness to normalize it.

Discussing findings from an array of sciences—comparative zoology, psychiatry, anthropology, evolutionary biology, social psychology, developmental biology, and machine learning—this book is essential reading for anyone interested in what science has to say about homosexuality.

TABLE OF CONTENTS
Introduction: Thinking about Science and Homosexuality
1. Not by Genes and Hormones Alone: On Homosexuality and Innateness
2. Sham Matings and Other Shenanigans: On Animal Homosexuality
3. Beyond the Paradox: On Homosexuality and Evolutionary Theory
4. Values, Facts, and Disorders: On Homosexuality and Psychiatry
Epilogue: Gaydars and the Dangers of Research on Sexual Orientation
Acknowledgments
Notes
References
Index
From off-brand products to elevator music, the “generic” is discarded as the copy, the knock-off, and the old. In *The Copy Generic*, anthropologist Scott MacLochlainn insists that more than the waste from the culture machine, the generic is a universal social tool, allowing us to move through the world with necessary frames of reference. It is the baseline and background, a category that includes and orders different types of specificity yet remains non-specific in itself. Across arenas as diverse as city planning, social media, ethnonationalism, and religion, the generic points to spaces in which knowledge is both over-produced and desperately lacking. Moving through ethnographic and historical settings in the Philippines, Europe, and the United States, MacLochlainn reveals ways the “generic” is crucial to how things repeat, circulate, and are classified in the world.

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Part I: The Copy Generic**

Introduction: Copies Generic, Templates, and [Insert Text Here]

1. Roses Are Red: The Seduction of Order and the Covertness of Category
3. Source Mimesis: How We Think about the Unauthored and Collectively Owned

**Part II: Christian Plurals and a Generic Religious**

Introduction

4. Formatting the Religious: “Non-Christians” and the Naturalness of Language
5. Divine/Generic | Olive/Mango
6. Big Faith: Christian Plurals and the Ambience of Catholicism

Epilogue: House of Generics *Pro Forma*

Acknowledgments

Notes

Bibliography

Index

Scott MacLochlainn is assistant professor of anthropology at Johns Hopkins University.
NICK SEAVERT

Computing Taste
 Algorithms and the Makers of Music Recommendation

DECEMBER | 216 p. | 7 halftones | 6 x 9 | Cloth $99.00 Paper $20.00

The people who make music recommender systems have lofty goals: they want to broaden listeners’ horizons and help obscure musicians find audiences, taking advantage of the enormous catalogs offered by companies like Spotify, Apple Music, and Pandora. But for their critics, recommender systems seem to embody all the potential harms of algorithms: they flatten culture into numbers, they normalize ever-broadening data collection, and they profile their users for commercial ends. Drawing on years of ethnographic fieldwork, anthropologist Nick Seaver describes how the makers of music recommendation navigate these tensions: how product managers understand their relationship with the users they want to help and to capture; how scientists conceive of listening itself as a kind of data processing; and how engineers imagine the geography of the world of music as a space they care for and control.

“Computing Taste tells a fresh story in the increasingly crowded scholarship on artificial intelligence and culture. It will be immensely useful for those outside of computer science and engineering who want to understand how people think and work in the AI industry.”
—Jonathan Sterne, author of Diminished Faculties, MP3, and The Audible Past

Nick Seaver is assistant professor of anthropology at Tufts University. He is coeditor of Towards an Anthropology of Data.

“Computing Taste rehumanizes the algorithmic systems that shape our world, drawing attention to the people who build and maintain them. In this vividly theorized book, Seaver brings the thinking of programmers into conversation with the discipline of anthropology, opening up the cultural world of computation in a wide-ranging exploration that travels from cosmology to calculation, myth to machine learning, and captivation to care.”

Nick Seaver

The University of Chicago Press

1427 E. 60th St., Chicago, IL 60637-2954, USA

https://press.uchicago.edu/resource/foreignrights.html

intlrights@uchicago.edu
Frans Hals was one of the greatest portrait painters in history, and his style transformed ideas and expectations about what portraiture can do and what a painting should look like.

Hals was a member of the great trifecta of Dutch Baroque painters alongside Rembrandt and Vermeer, and he was the portraitist of choice for entrepreneurs, merchants, professionals, theologians, intellectuals, militiamen, and even his fellow artists in the Dutch Golden Age. His works, with their visible brush strokes and bold execution, lacked the fine detail and smooth finish common among his peers, and some dismissed his works as sloppy and unfinished. But for others, they were fresh and exciting, filled with a sense of the sitter’s animated presence captured with energy and immediacy.

Steven Nadler gives us the first full-length biography of Hals in many years and offers a view into seventeenth-century Haarlem and this culturally rich era of the Dutch Republic. He tells the story not only of Hals’s life, but also of the artistic, social, political, and religious worlds in which he lived and worked.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Illustrations
Introduction
1. Exile
2. Haarlem
3. Master Painter
4. Citizen Hals
5. In a Rough Manner
6. “Very Boldly Done after Life”
7. Debts and Disputes
8. Pandemics
9. “A Pleasing, Good and Sincere Peace”
10. Denouement
Acknowledgments
Notes
References
Index
Peter Probst offers the first book to explore the invention and development of African art as an art historical category. He starts his exploration with a simple question: What do we actually talk about when we talk about African art? By confronting the historically shifting answers to this question, Probst identifies the notion of African art as a conceptual vessel whose changing content manifests wider societal transformations. The perspective is a pragmatic and relational one. Rather than providing an affirmative answer to what African art is and what local meanings it has, Probst shows how the works labeled as “African art” figure in the historical processes and social interactions that constitute the Africanist art world.

What Is African Art? covers three key stages in the field’s history. Starting with the late-nineteenth through the mid-twentieth century, Probst focuses on the role of museums, collectors, and photography in disseminating visual culture and considers how early anthropologists, artists, and art historians imbued objects with values that reflected ideas of the time. He then explores the remaking of the field at the dawn of African independence with the shift towards contemporary art and the rise of Black Atlantic studies in the 1970s and 1980s. Finally, he examines the postcolonial reconfiguration of the field driven by questions of heritage, repatriation, and representation. Probst looks to the future, arguing that, if the study of African art is to move in productive new directions, we must look to how the field is evolving within Africa.

TABLE OF CONTENTS
Introduction
Part I
1. Forming a Field: Colonial Collecting, Racial Omissions, and National Rivalries
2. Celebrating Form: From Primitive to Primitivism
3. Creating Visibility and Value: Photography and Its Effects
Part II
4. Discovering the African Artist: Tradition and Tribality in the Post–Cold War Era
5. Acknowledging the Contemporary: New Forms, New Actors
6. Extending the Horizon: Africa in the Americas
Part III
7. Intervening the Canon: The Postmodern, the Popular, and the Authentic
8. Challenging Representation: Postcolonial Critique and Curation
9. Undoing the Empire: Duress, Defiance, and Decolonial Futures
Epilogue
Acknowledgments
Notes
Index