

# The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction

Walter Benjamin



# The Work Of Art In The Age Of Mechanical Reproduction

**J Elliott**



## **The Work Of Art In The Age Of Mechanical Reproduction:**

*The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction* Walter Benjamin, 2008-08-07 One of the most important works of cultural theory ever written Walter Benjamin's groundbreaking essay explores how the age of mass media means audiences can listen to or see a work of art repeatedly and what the troubling social and political implications of this are Throughout history some books have changed the world They have transformed the way we see ourselves and each other They have inspired debate dissent war and revolution They have enlightened outraged provoked and comforted They have enriched lives and destroyed them Now Penguin brings you the works of the great thinkers pioneers radicals and visionaries whose ideas shook civilization and helped make us who we are *Great Ideas the Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical*

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*The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction* combats traditional art criticism's treatment of artworks as fixed unchanging mystical objects For Walter Benjamin the consequences of addressing a work of art in this manner have a wider resonance closed off from any active visual or tactile engagement the work of art becomes an object of passive contemplation and a potential tool of oppression Benjamin argues that technology has fundamentally altered the way art is experienced Potentially open to interpretation and accessible to many art in the age of mechanical reproduction has the potential to be mobilized for radical purposes While ostensibly addressing the artistic consequences of technical reproducibility on art Benjamin also addresses the wider political consequences of this shift **The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical**

**Reproduction** Walter Benjamin, 1998 *The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction: An Influential Essay of*

*Cultural Criticism; The History and Theory of Art (Hardcover)* Walter Benjamin, Harry Zohn, 2018-08-24 Walter Benjamin discusses whether art is diminished by the modern culture of mass replication arriving at the conclusion that the aura or soul of an artwork is indeed removed by duplication In an essay critical of modern fashion and manufacture Benjamin decries how new technology affects art The notion of fine arts is threatened by an absence of scarcity an affair which diminishes the authenticity and essence of the artist's work Though the process of art replication dates to classical antiquity only the modern era allows for a mass quantity of prints or mass production Given that the unique aura of an artist's work and the reaction it provokes in those who see it is diminished Benjamin posits that artwork is much more political in significance The

style of modern propaganda of the use of art for the purpose of generating raw emotion or arousing belief is likely to become more prevalent versus the old fashioned production of simpler beauty or meaning in a cultural or religious context The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction Walter Benjamin, Caroline Bassett, 1970 **Walter Benjamin's "Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction"** Pavel Büchler, 2006 *Walter Benjamin's Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction*, 1988 **(The Work of Art) in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction** Gil McElroy, 2005

**Photography** Liz Wells, 2004 This seminal text for photography students identifies key debates in photographic theory stimulates discussion and evaluation of the critical use of photographic images and ways of seeing This new edition retains the thematic structure and text features of its predecessors but also expands coverage on photojournalism digital imaging techniques race and colonialism The content is updated with additional international and contemporary examples and images throughout and the inclusion of colour photos Features of this new edition include Key concepts and short biographies of major thinkers Updated international and contemporary case studies and examples A full glossary of terms a comprehensive bibliography Resource information including guides to public archives and useful websites Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction, 1935 Sean Joseph Patrick Carney, 2010 **The Nineteenth-century Visual Culture Reader** Vanessa R. Schwartz, Jeannene M. Przyblyski, 2004 The nineteenth century is central to contemporary discussions of visual culture This reader brings together key writings on the period exploring such topics as photographs exhibitions and advertising *The Permanent Light of Eclipse* Paul Kelley, 199? *A Reply to Walter Benjamins The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction* Charles Brownson, Karla Elling, 1996 Doing Cultural Studies Paul du Gay, 1997 In recent years culture has become a central concern in a wide range of fields and disciplines This book introduces the main substantive and theoretical strands of this turn to culture through the medium of a particular case study that of the Sony Walkman Using the example of the Walkman the book indicates how and why cultural practices and institutions have come to play such a crucial part in our lives and introduces some of the central ideas concepts and methods of analysis involved in conducting cultural studies **Walter Benjamin and Art** Andrew Benjamin, 2005-02-01 Walter Benjamin s most famous and influential essay remains *The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction* Walter Benjamin and the *Work of Art* is the first book to provide a broad and dedicated analysis of this canonical work and its effect upon core contemporary concerns in the visual arts aesthetics and the history of philosophy The book is structured around three distinct areas the extension of Benjamin s work the question of historical connection the importance of the essay in the development of criticism of both the visual arts and literature Contributors to the volume include major Benjamin commentators whose work has very much defined the reception of the essay and leading philosophers historians and aestheticians whose approaches open up new areas of interest and relevance **Notes on Technology and Architecture, After Walter Benjamin's "the Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction"** Stephen Frith, 2000 Returning to Benjamin Victor Burgin, 2022

**The Virginia Quarterly Review**, 2013      **The Aura of the Word in the Early Age of Print (1450-1600)** Jessica Buskirk, Samuel Mareel, 2017-07-05 Did the invention of movable type change the way that the word was perceived in the early modern period In his groundbreaking essay *The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction* the cultural critic Walter Benjamin argued that reproduction drains the image of its aura by which he means the authority that a work of art obtains from its singularity and its embeddedness in a particular context The central question in *The Aura of the Word in the Early Age of Print 1450 1600* is whether the dissemination of text through print had a similar effect on the status of the word in the early modern period In this volume contributors from a variety of fields look at manifestations of the early modern word in English French Latin Dutch German and Yiddish as entities whose significance derived not simply from their semantic meaning but also from their relationship to their material support to the physical context in which they are located and to the act of writing itself Rather than viewing printed text as functional and lacking in materiality contributors focus on how the placement of a text could affect its meaning and significance The essays also consider the continued vitality of pre printing press kinds of text such as the illuminated manuscript and how new practices such as the veneration of handwriting sprung up in the wake of the invention of movable type

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