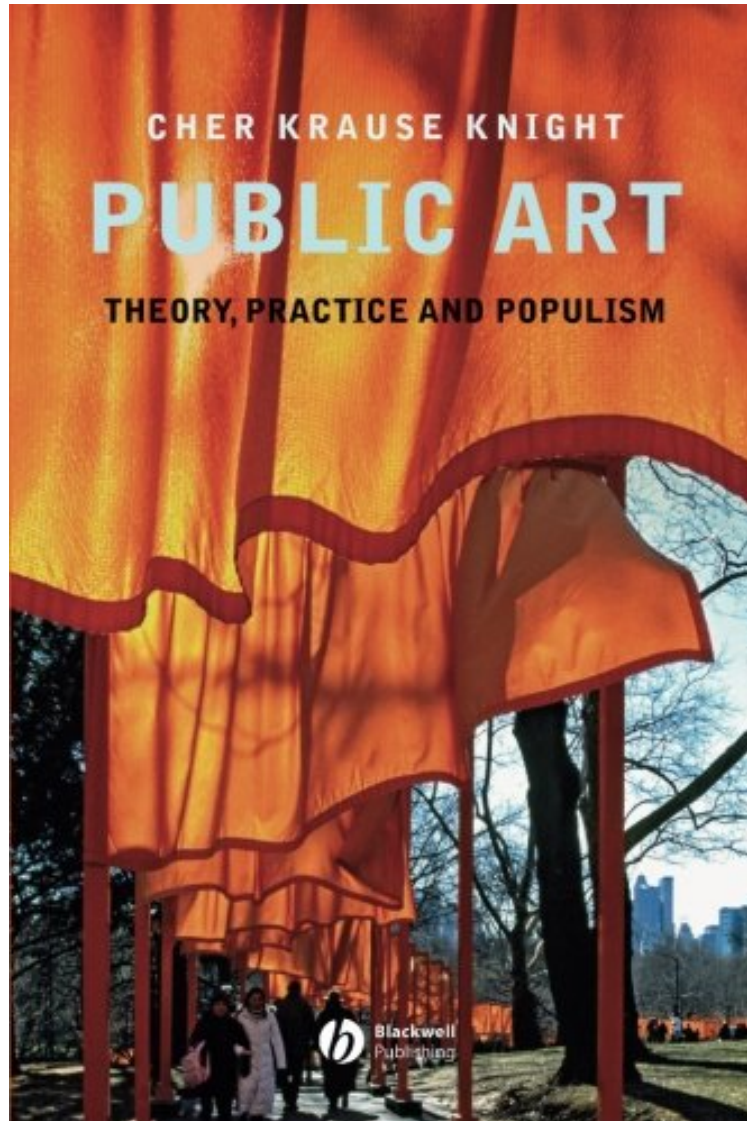


[Ebook pdf] Public Art: Theory, Practice and Populism

## Public Art: Theory, Practice and Populism

*Cher Krause Knight*

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**Cher Krause Knight : Public Art: Theory, Practice and Populism** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Public Art: Theory, Practice and Populism:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This book feels like a museum.By Mariya M.I hate, hate, hate this book! Unless you are an art major, the book is close to impossible to read. The author included so much jargon!Loved everything she had to say (well, keep in mind, it's just her opinion) but the book feels like a museum - it's "public" but it's not inclusive. It makes the everyday person feel like the book is not written for him/her. Just like a museum. It's

there, open for everybody but only the "elite" goes there. Everybody else feels out of place. This is what this book feels like. How ironic to write a book about public art and make the book feel like a museum! . Unless you have a degree in arts and are familiar with the jargon - this book will make you feel illiterate. The vocabulary... oh, the vocabulary... 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great book! By anonymous This is a really great book if you want to generally learn about public art and the major issues that concern it. I bought this text for a class I am taking on public art, and it was a really helpful introduction into the topic. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book for an important area of 21st century art By O. F. Smith This book is a required read for anyone interested in contemporary art, public art, aesthetics and/or the history of modern/contemporary art. It is very well written and highly readable and provides both insight and substance for both the novice and the expert alike. The approach taken by Knight is an insightful and significant one. This book gives an important reevaluation of public art as not just a place/art of monuments and site based works but as a key and active aesthetic ground in which the varied interest (public/private), functions (monument/aesthetic statement), audiences (general population/art world), and cultural frames and references (popular culture/ fine art), make for aesthetic and cultural proving ground. One of my most important realizations from reading Krause's book is that rather than being a kind "no persons' land," which is neither important for the art world nor for the public, public art is one of the most important categories of art production today. And for this insight alone the book is well worth the price and I intend to use this book in several of my graduate level college studio art classes. I recommend it to one and all.

This book takes a bold look at public art and its populist appeal, offering a more inclusive guide to America's creative tastes and shared culture. It examines the history of American public art from FDR's New Deal to Christo's The Gates and challenges preconceived notions of public art, expanding its definition to include a broader scope of works and concepts. Expands the definition of public art to include sites such as Boston's Big Dig, Las Vegas' Treasure Island, and Disney World Offers a refreshing alternative to the traditional rhetoric and criticism surrounding public art Includes insightful analysis of the museum and its role in relation to public art

"Overall, Public Art is a provocative and impressive study of contemporary public art that is ambitious in its pursuit of populist virtues. ... Knight's book is an excellent example of art-historical scholarship." (The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism, January 2010) "[Knight] offers a twenty-first-century definition of public art." (AfterImage, July 2009) "A broad account of public art in the United States, from its history and growth to its current meaning and purpose." (Sculpture Magazine, March 2009) "The thorough bibliography will greatly benefit public art professionals, artists, art historians, and laypersons. Providing a detailed, frank account of public art and viewer agency across the broadest spectrum, Public Art offers insight into works that might be beyond traditional conceptions. By bringing art that is often at the margins to the center, Knight offers fresh ideas on a subject ripe for further discussion. Recommended." (Choice, November 2008) "Cher Krause Knight focuses on the notion of populist involvement as the yardstick by which to measure public art projects. She touches on well-known moments in the history of public art to illustrate the ways that the public has been variously excluded, humored, harangued, or genuinely integrated into projects. Most interesting are her musings on commercial sites, like Disney's Magic Kingdom and Las Vegas casinos. In their admittedly pandering capacity for spectacle, she argues, such places include the public in ways that snooty art commissions don't whatever you say about their aesthetic values." (Public Art, Fall 2008) "Cher Knight situates public art in a continuum of visual experience that includes museums, earthworks and Las Vegas. Embracing spectacle and popular engagement, she expands existing parameters to make public art both more provocative and more truly public." Dr. Harriet F. Senie, author of Contemporary Public Sculpture; The 'Tilted Arc' Controversy; and co-editor of Critical Issues in Public Art "In this remarkable book, Cher Knight has done a splendid job of synthesizing current thinking on public art rightly concluding that in the modern world it is the public who awards value." Dr. Sally Webster, Professor of Modern and Contemporary Art, Lehman College and the Graduate Center CUNY From the Back Cover American public art is a living entity always in flux. It is not relegated only to physical objects, but is manifested through an accretion of meaningful experiences. Though the art world has often taken an elitist view of popular culture, public interest in art has grown. This dynamic has thrust public art into the center of academic and intellectual debate, especially in the last few decades. This book takes a bold look at public art through a populist lens, offering a more inclusive guide to America's creative tastes and shared culture. It examines the history of public art from FDR's New Deal to Christo's The Gates and challenges preconceived notions of public art, expanding its definition to include sites such as Boston's Big Dig, Las Vegas' Treasure Island, and Disney World. In doing so, it offers a refreshing alternative to the traditional rhetoric and criticism surrounding public art. Reframing populist sentiments, Public Art: Theory, Practice and Populism lobbies for a revolution in the way we think about, talk about, and appreciate public art.