



Museum highlights [the writings of Andrea Fraser /

Fraser, Andrea (1965-)

MIT Press, c2005.

Monografía

"Andrea Fraser's work, writes Pierre Bourdieu in his foreword to *Museum Highlights*, is able to "trigger a social mechanism, a sort of machine infernale whose operation causes the hidden truth of social reality to reveal itself." It often does this by incorporating and inhabiting the social role it sets out to critique- as in a performance piece in which she leads a tour as a museum docent and describes the men's room in the same elevated language that she uses to describe seventeenth-century Dutch paintings. Influenced by the interdisciplinarity of postmodernism, Fraser's interventionist art draws on four primary artistic and intellectual frameworks- institutional critique, with its site-specific examination of cultural context; performance; feminism, with its investigation of identity formation; and Bourdieu's reflexive sociology. Fraser's writings form an integral part of her artistic practice, and this collection of texts written between 1985 and 2003- including the performance script for the docent's tour that gives the book its title- both documents and represents her work. The writings in *Museum Highlights* are arranged to reflect different aspects of Fraser's artistic practice. They include essays that trace the development of critical "artistic practice" as cultural resistance; performance scripts that explore art institutions and the public sphere; and texts that explore the ambivalent relationship of art to the economic and political interests of its time. The final piece, "Isn't This a Wonderful Place? (A Tour of a Tour of the Guggenheim Bilbao)," reflects on the role of museums in an era of globalization. Among the book's 30 illustrations are stills from performance pieces, some never before published" (cubierta posterior)

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Mediating, Participatory, and Rendered in the Public Sphere? (1996) ; 6 What's Intangible, Transitory, Mediating, Participatory, and Rendered in the Public Sphere? Part II(1996) ; 7 "To Quote," Say the Kabyles, "Is to Bring Back to Life" (2002) -- PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, PRIVATE OBJECTS. 8 Notes on the Museum's Publicity (1990) ; 9 Museum Highlights: A Gallery Talk (1989) ; 10 A Letter to the Wadsworth Atheneum (1991) ; 11 Welcome to the Wadsworth (1991) ; 12 Aren't They Lovely? An Introduction (1992) -- PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS. 13 A Speech on Documenta (1992) ; 14 How to Provide an Artistic Service: An Introduction (1994) ; 15 What Do I, as an Artist, Provide? (A Speech at the EA-Generali Foundation) (1995) ; 16 Slashing the American Canvas, or, Why I Would Rather Have a Day Job (1998) ; 17 A "Sensation" Chronicle (2001) ; 18 Official Welcome (2001) -- IN CONCLUSION? ONWARD TO THE PAST, OR, ART AT THE FOREFRONT OF REGRESSION. 19 Isn't This a Wonderful Place? (A Tour of a Tour of the Guggenheim Bilbao) (2003)

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