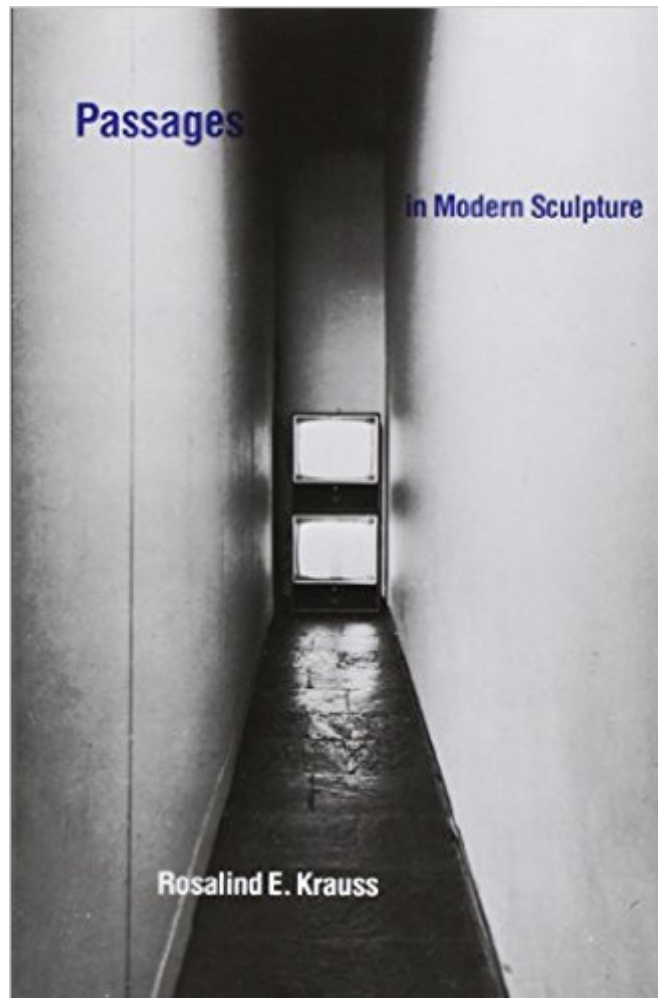


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Passages In Modern Sculpture



Synopsis

Studies major works by important sculptors since Rodin in the light of different approaches to general sculptural issues to reveal the logical progressions from nineteenth-century figurative works to the conceptual work of the present.

Book Information

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: The MIT Press; Revised ed. edition (February 26, 1981)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0262610337

ISBN-13: 978-0262610339

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.8 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (10 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

This is Krauss's first book, and the one I like best. Her history of modern sculpture from Rodin to Robert Smithson is grounded in a sophisticated theoretical perspective, but it's not collapsing under the weight of theory like many later Krauss's texts. Her theoretical framework in this early book is phenomenological -- she made a transition to structuralist and poststructuralist theories later in the seventies. Phenomenology -- in particular, Merleau-Pontyan phenomenology -- allows for many thought-provoking readings of modern sculpture. However, the basic assumption of the book -- viz., that there have been some parallels between the development of modern sculpture and phenomenological thought -- is flawed. There is no evidence that the artists discussed by Krauss heard of Husserl and Merleau-Ponty and their theories. Many other authors beside Krauss make a similar unjustified assumption of various "parallelisms" and "influences." Basically, this is historicism -- a belief in some sort of *Zeitgeist* at work in all cultural forms of a particular age. Still, the book makes for a much more rewarding read than countless superficial, merely descriptive histories of modern sculpture, or modern art in general.

Krauss gives a comprehensive analysis of modern sculpture in this book. I give it four stars because

krauss' syntax made some parts confusing to read.

excellent intro to the concepts and motivations behind 20th century sculpture by a leading art critic whose books never fail to engage me

I am not new to academic writing, but this book is incredibly painful to read. Filled with unnecessary flowery and over-the-top language, it takes forever for Krauss to make a point and even longer for the reader to understand it.

Requirement for 4000 level class at University of Oklahoma, the author ISN'T an easy read. With that being said it's very well written and she is VERY knowledgeable on the subject, however it is her opinions though.

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