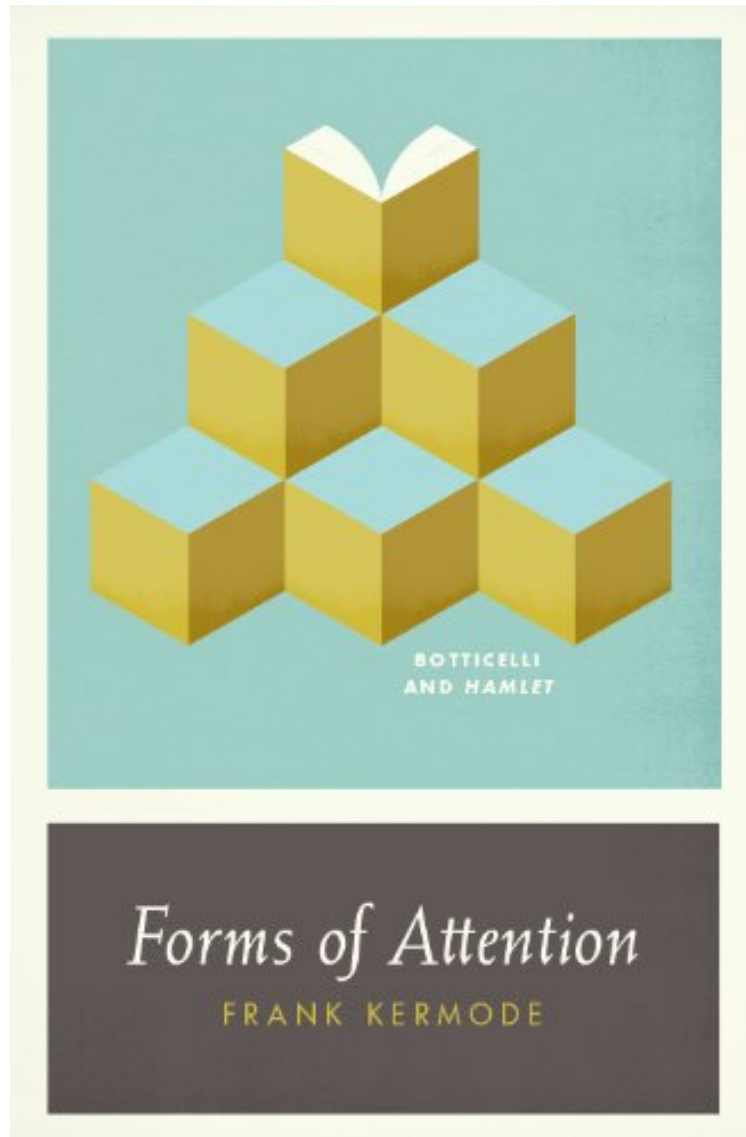


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Forms of Attention: Botticelli and Hamlet (Wellek Library Lectures (Paperback))

Frank Kermode

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Frank Kermode : Forms of Attention: Botticelli and Hamlet (Wellek Library Lectures (Paperback)) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Forms of Attention: Botticelli and Hamlet (Wellek Library Lectures (Paperback)):

Sir Frank Kermode, the British scholar, instructor, and author, was an inspired critic. Forms of Attention is based on a

series of three lectures he gave on canon formation, or how we choose what art to value. The essay on Botticelli traces the artist's sudden popularity in the nineteenth century for reasons that have more to do with poetry than painting. In the second essay, Kermode reads Hamlet from a very modern angle, offering a useful (and playful) perspective for a contemporary audience. The final essay is a defense of literary criticism as a process and conversation that, while often conflating knowledge with opinion, keeps us reading great art and working with—and literature.

"[Kermode] was drawn to the entanglements of the text and its rational mysteries rather than some scaffold of theory.... He protected the reader's freedom to be interested in whatever was interesting. That meant writing a prose that was never wholly academic and over the years became more and more open to the intersection of literature and the lives we're actually living." (New York Times) "Kermode's volume has the virtue of a lecturer's accessible style designed for a listening audience. It is also self-consciously spare of 'naked criticism.' There is, nonetheless, an abundance of learned commentary, steady substance, and unveiled critical excellence. Which is to say the volume is a useful and engaging reflection of its learned author." (London of Books)"About the AuthorFrank Kermode (1919–2010) was a British literary critic who taught English literature at University College London, the University of Cambridge, Columbia University, and Harvard University. His criticism was regularly featured in the London of Books and the New York of Books, and he was the author of many books including *The Sense of an Ending*; *The Classic*; *The Genesis of Secrecy*; and, most recently, *Concerning E. M. Forster*. Kermode was knighted in 1991.