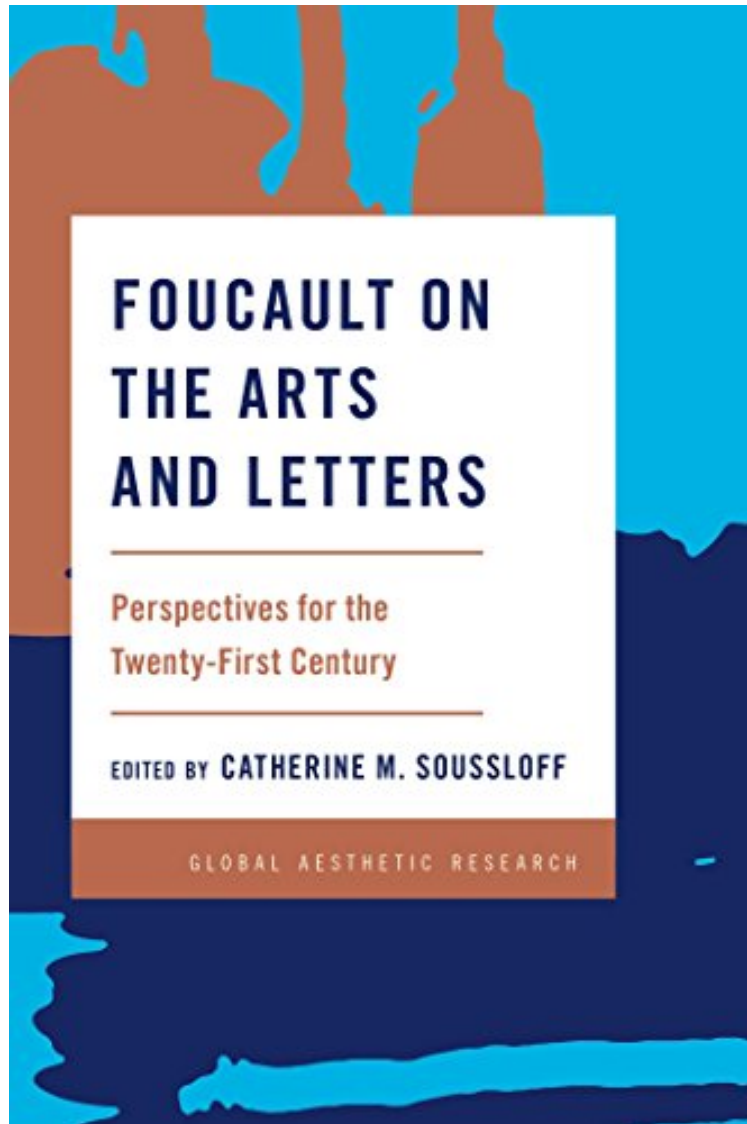


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## **Foucault on the Arts and Letters: Perspectives for the 21st Century (Global Aesthetic Research)**

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**From Rowman Littlefield International : Foucault on the Arts and Letters: Perspectives for the 21st Century (Global Aesthetic Research)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Foucault on the Arts and Letters: Perspectives for the 21st Century (Global Aesthetic Research):

As one of the most important philosophers of the 20th century, Michel Foucault's reputation today rests on his

political philosophy in relation to the contemporary subject in a neo-liberal and globalized society. This book offers insight into the role of the arts in Foucault's thought as a means to better understanding his contribution to larger debates concerning contemporary existence. Visual culture, literary, film and performance studies have all engaged with Foucauldian theories, but a full examination of Foucault's significance for aesthetic discourse has been lacking until now. This book argues that Foucault's particular approach to philosophy as a way of thinking the self through the work of art provides significant grounds for rethinking his impact today. The volume moves across as many disciplinary boundaries as Foucault himself did, demonstrating the value of Foucault's approach to aesthetic discourse for our understanding of how the arts and humanities reflect upon contemporary existence in a globalized society.

This collection demonstrates the continuing productivity of Foucault's thinking for understanding a surprisingly wide range of the arts: literature, painting, photography, even dance and music. The essayists offer insightful commentaries on concepts such as archaeology, heterotopia, and the aesthetics of existence, while interpreting Foucault's explorations on figures from Shakespeare to Beckett, from Bosch to Bacon, and many others. (Gary Shapiro, Tucker-Boatwright Professor in the Humanities-Philosophy, University of Richmond) As transdisciplinary methods in the arts and sciences are ascending, Foucault emerges as a central thinker, again, because his oeuvre embodies knowledge that defies disciplinary boundaries. *Foucault on the Arts and Letters* comprises essays engaging a creative display of figures and concepts while enacting the very transdisciplinarity Foucault helped to craft. This volume should engender similar research well beyond Foucault alone. (Michael Kelly, Professor of Philosophy, UNC Charlotte and President, Transdisciplinary Aesthetics Foundation) This volume offers a long overdue examination of Michel Foucault's seminal critical engagements with primarily French aesthetics. It is part of a new wave in the evaluation of the philosopher's influential oeuvre, opening new doors and new ways of thinking and reading his work. (Mark Franko, Laura H. Carnell Professor of Dance, Boyer College of Music and Dance, Temple University) About the Author Catherine M. Soussloff is Professor of Art History, Visual Art Theory and a permanent Associate at the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies at the University of British Columbia, Canada. Her many publications include *The Handbook of Visual Culture* (2012), *The Subject in Art* (2006), *The Absolute Artist* (1997), *Jewish Identity in Modern Art History* (1999) and *Editing the Image* (2006).