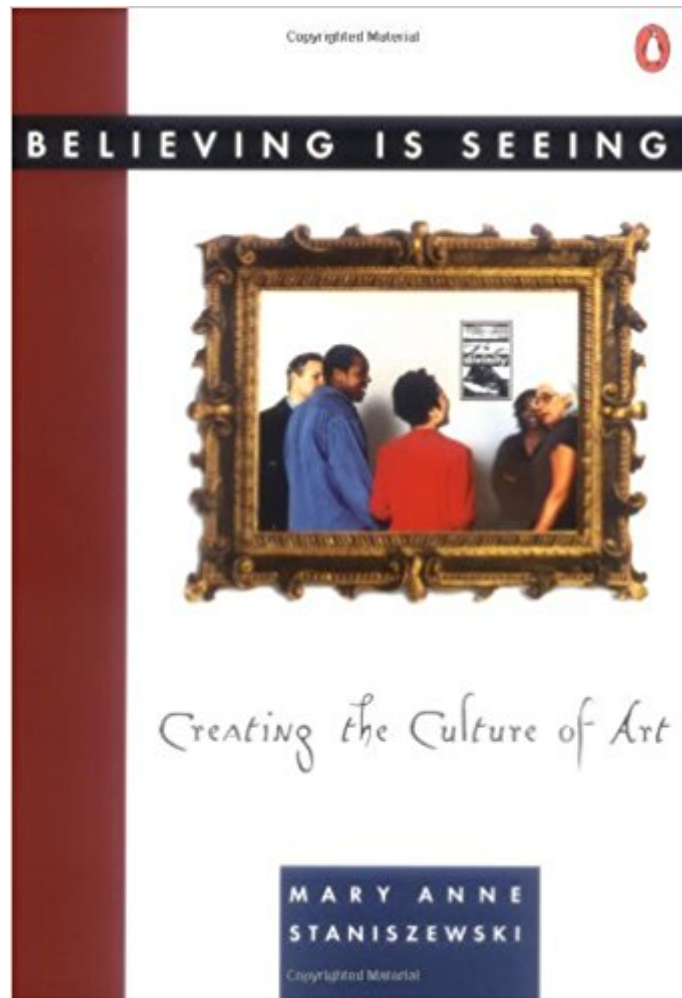




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# Believing Is Seeing: Creating The Culture Of Art



## Synopsis

Why are the paleolithic Venus of Willendorf, Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel frescoes, and Marcel Duchamp's ready-made urinal all considered works of art? Why, strictly speaking, is a Cindy Sherman photograph more "art-like" than a Da Vinci portrait? How did the painters and sculptors of the Renaissance see their creations? And who decides what art is today? In the tradition of Marshall McLuhan and John Berger, this learned and deliciously subversive book gives us a new way of seeing our artistic heritage. *Believing Is Seeing* is a work of multicultural scope and glittering intelligence that bridges the gulf between classical Japanese painting and the films of Spike Lee, between high theory and pop culture. Probing beyond the rhetorical surface of standard art histories and drawing on a panoramic array of illustrative material, Mary Anne Staniszewski throws a fresh light on individual works and the often mystifying criteria by which they are valued.

## Book Information

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: Penguin Books; 1st edition (January 1, 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0140168249

ISBN-13: 978-0140168242

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 0.8 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars 22 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #22,878 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Aesthetics](#) #39 in [Books > Arts & Photography > History & Criticism > Criticism](#) #101 in [Books > Arts & Photography > History & Criticism > History](#)

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Why are the paleolithic Venus of Willendorf, Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel frescoes, and Marcel Duchamp's ready-made urinal all considered works of art? Why, strictly speaking, is a Cindy Sherman photograph more "art-like" than a Da Vinci portrait? How did the painters and sculptors of the Renaissance see their creations? And who decides what art is today? In the tradition of Marshall McLuhan and John Berger, this learned and deliciously subversive book gives us a new way of seeing our artistic heritage. *Believing Is Seeing* is a work of multicultural scope and glittering intelligence that bridges the gulf between classical Japanese painting and the films of Spike Lee, between high theory and pop culture. Probing beyond the rhetorical surface of standard art histories

and drawing on a panoramic array of illustrative material, Mary Anne Staniszewski throws a fresh light on individual works and the often mystifying criteria by which they are valued.

A little bit disorganized with the ideas but it made sense overall!

I bought it new, but obviously received a used copy (or somehow it became incredibly worn). The book is somewhat interesting, a fast read. I had to buy it for a class.

Needed it for a class and although its not in the best shape I was warned about that so I can't complain

Different view of the meaning of art... I had to get it for a class I am attending.

I liked it, got it for an Art class.

basic info, fast and easy to read. If you have not had any art history/theory is a good beginning. Not what I thought it'd be.

Brings to fore an evaluation of art as it exists today rather than how the subject was thought of years ago. Refreshing, knowledgable.

Classic work of critical art history based on the author's dynamic lectures at RISD. The death of "World Survey 101"! Decades later, this book is still engaging, sharp, and highly readable.

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