

Diana & Nikon: Essays on the Aesthetic of Photography

Janet Malcolm



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As a photography critic for 'The New Yorker', Janet Malcolm has long been admired for perception, lucidity and utter lack of cant. Her essays, collected here for the first time and complete with reproductions of the works under discussion, explore the place of photography in the continuum of art. Her discussions of the works of pioneers Stieglitz, Steichen and Weston, innovators Avedon, Eggleston and Sonneman, and other major representatives of this new and vital art leads the leader to surprising and often unorthodox conclusions.

Malcolm's central concern is how photography can be defined. What is its place in the hierarchy and the history of the arts? If Malcolm's answer is equivocal, it is because her view of photography is as complicated and controversial as the subjects itself. Nonetheless, what she has to say - whether about the portraits of Avedon, the snapshots of Winogrand, the nudes of Weston or the abstracts of Callahan - is emphatically clear and persona. This is a book to read and to ponder, a sensitive and generous appraisal of where photography is now in relation to all the arts as well as to its own past.



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