



The Invention of Art: A Cultural History

By Larry Shiner

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With *The Invention of Art*, Larry Shiner challenges our conventional understandings of art and asks us to reconsider its history entirely, arguing that the category of fine art is a modern invention—that the lines drawn between art and craft resulted from key social transformations in Europe during the long eighteenth century.

"Shiner spent over a decade honing what he calls 'a brief history of the idea of art.' This carefully prepared and—given the extent and complexity of what he's discussing—admirably concise, well-organized book is the result. . . . Shiner's text is scholarly but accessible, and should appeal to readers with even a dabbler's interest in art theory."—*Publishers Weekly*

"*The Invention of Art* is enjoyable to read and provides a welcome addition to the history and philosophy of art."—Terrie L. Wilson, *Art Documentation*

"A lucid book . . . it should be a must-read for anyone active in the arts."—Marc Spiegler, *Chicago Tribune Books*

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