



The Responsibility of Forms: Critical Essays on Music, Art, and Representation

By Roland Barthes

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These late essays of Roland Barthes's are concerned with the visible and the audible, and here the preoccupations are particularly intense and rewarding, in part because Barthes was himself, by predilection, an artist and a musician, and in part because he was of two minds about the very possibility of attaching to art and to music a written text, a criticism.

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Editorial Review

Review

"The essays included in *The Responsibility of Forms*, written mainly during the 1970s, swoop repetitively on those stray material fragments which elude the embrace of the sign, those gestures or nuances which even the most elaborate semiology must fail to formalize. It is a move from text to texture from 'gloss' as annotation to 'gloss' as material sheen. Like Freud before him, the later Barthes seeks to install himself at the very juncture of sign and body, semiotic and somatic, meaning and materiality." -- *Terry Eagleton, Times Literary Supplement*

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About the Author

Roland Barthes was born in 1915 and studied French literature and classics at the University of Paris. After teaching French at universities in Romania and Egypt, he joined the Centre National de Recherche Scientifique, where he devoted himself to research in sociology and lexicology. He was a professor of the Collège de France until his death in 1980.

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Gary Cornejo:

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