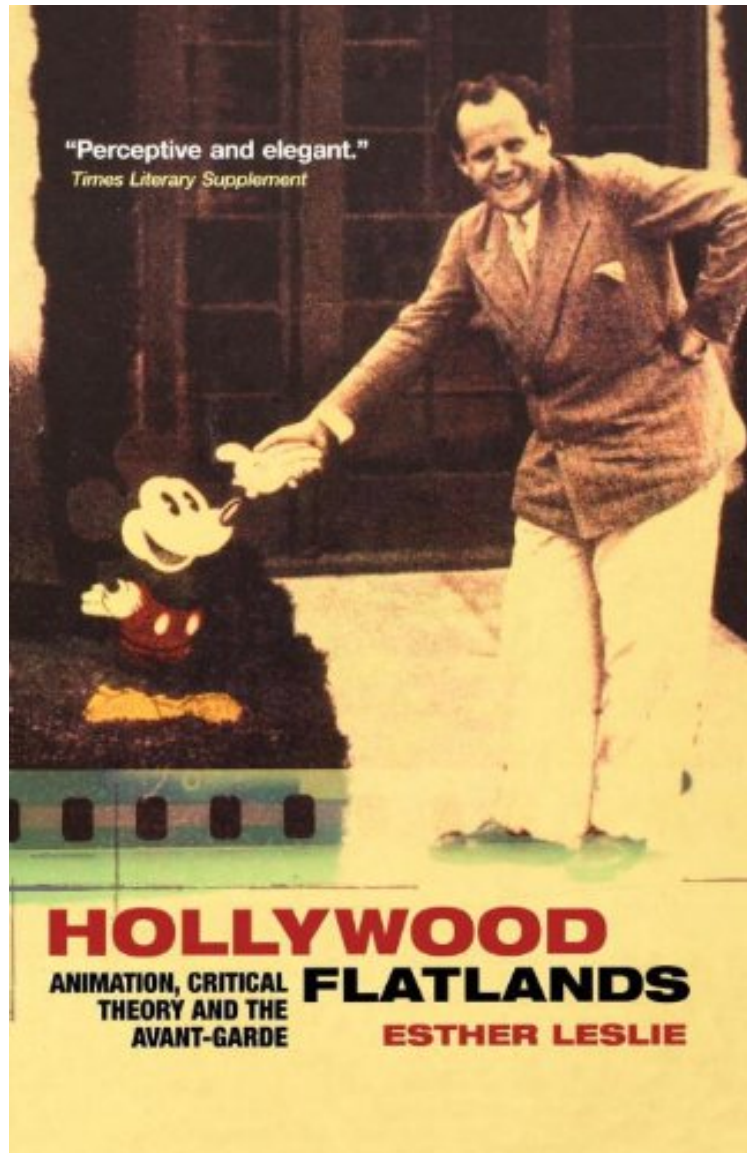


Hollywood Flatlands: Animation, Critical Theory and the Avant-Garde

Esther Leslie

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#535466 in Books Verso 2004-04 2004-06-17Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.50 x .70 x 5.451, 1.02
#File Name: 1844675041344 pages | File size: 37.Mb

Esther Leslie : Hollywood Flatlands: Animation, Critical Theory and the Avant-Garde before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hollywood Flatlands: Animation, Critical Theory and the Avant-Garde:

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following review helpful. Five StarsBy Carlos SoaresGreat book0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.
Animation, Walter Benjamin and the Avant GardeBy andyFrustratingly, the life and work of Walter Benjamin, rather than animation or the avant-garde, are clearly this author's passions. This should have been reflected in the title as a ludicrously disproportionate amount of discussion is given over to Benjamin and his writings. Everything always comes back to Benjamin, and everything is filtered through Benjamin. Otherwise, a fascinating read.

With ruminations on drawing, colour and caricature, on the political meaning of fairy-tales, talking animals and human beings as machines, Hollywood Flatlands brings to light the links between animation, avant-garde art and modernist criticism. Focusing on the work of aesthetic and political revolutionaries of the inter-war period, Esther Leslie reveals how the animation of commodities can be studied as a journey into modernity in cinema. She looks afresh at the links between the Soviet Constructivists and the Bauhaus, for instance, and those between Walter Benjamin and cinematic abstraction. She also provides new interpretations of the writings of Siegfried Kracauer on animation, shows how Theodor Adornos and Max Horkheimers film viewing affected their intellectual development, and reconsiders Sergei Eisensteins famous handshake with Mickey Mouse at Disneys Hyperion Studios in 1930.

A vital new book.ASIFAIIn an age when the Walt Disney Co ... is completely lost to sober cultural debate, it is not insignificant to remember that, quite recently, the opposite was the case.Los Angeles TimesThis is about much more than the House of Mouse, tracing with a deft hand the aesthetic precursors of film animation in the work of Hans Richter, Walter Ruttmann and Dziga Vertov.Radical PhilosophyIn this incisive and profound study, you find such classic subjects as Adolph Hitler, Charlie Chaplin, Leon Trotsky, Mickey Mouse, Nazism, Leni Riefenstahl, Theodor W. Adorno, Sergei M. Eisenstein, Dumbo, Betty Boop, the Class Struggle, Piet Mondrian, Walter Benjamin and Walt Disney (along with much, much more).Giannalberto BendazziBrash and erudite, Hollywood Flatlands treats animated cartoons as an avant-garde taste and anti-illusionism as a Modernist problematic.London of BooksPerceptive and elegant.Times Literary SupplementOnce in a long while, a book appears that meets all the high standards of scholarship. In the field of animation, Leslies Hollywood Flatlands is that work ... groundbreaking.Choice, A Choice Outstanding Academic Title of 2003About the AuthorEsther Leslie is a lecturer in English and Humanities at Birkbeck College, London. She is the author of Walter Benjamin: Overpowering Conformism and sits on the editorial boards of Historical Materialism, Radical Philosophy and Revolutionary History.