

Summary

A number of papers for journals, lectures and conferences constitute the basis for this book. Since most of them are dealing with artistic, cultural and political phenomena, they were arranged in different parts, which are focused on some specific theoretical problems or specific fields or phenomena. Although these texts, which were written over a period of about two decades, are not organised strictly in chronological order, they should indicate a trajectory of the author's own conceptual evolution.

Aura, Culture and what Becomes from Form?

Part one of the book deals with Walter Benjamin's theoretical intervention in the 1930s and some contemporary contexts, which confirm its relevance. In a historical context, mass culture as an actually established entity is almost entirely situated in the 20th century, and only from the viewpoint of this century were its earlier manifestations traceable to a time of the development and breakthrough of capitalism along with the industrial and political revolutions. The disappearing of what Benjamin called *aura* through the intrusion of the reproduction of the classic works of art, and even more significantly, through a development of the new forms of art made possible by technical devices, brings a turn into the functioning of the art itself. The media, for instance, represent the state of affairs as they express and propagate the dominant views and attitudes, in the words of many theoreticians in the category of the Western Marxism: the ideology. As such, the