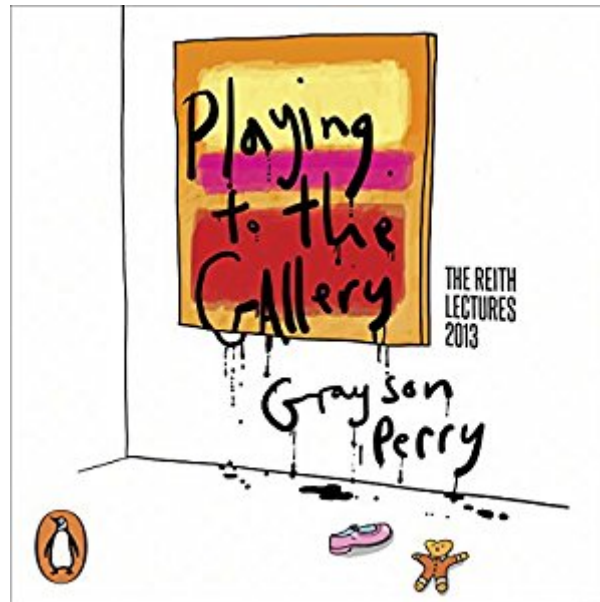


The book was found

# Playing To The Gallery: Helping Contemporary Art In Its Struggle To Be Understood



## Synopsis

"It's easy to feel insecure around art and its appreciation, as though we cannot enjoy certain artworks if we don't have a lot of academic and historical knowledge. But if there's one message that I want you to take away it's that anybody can enjoy art and anybody can have a life in the arts - even me! For even I, an Essex transvestite potter, have been let in by the artworld mafia." Now Grayson Perry is a fully paid-up member of the art establishment, he wants to show that any of us can appreciate art (after all, there is a reason he's called his book *Playing to the Gallery* and not *Sucking Up to the Academic Elite*). In this live recording from the Reith Lectures (2013), he talks about his own funny, personal journey through the art world and answers the basic questions that might occur to us in an art gallery but seem too embarrassing to ask. Questions such as: What is good or bad art - and does it even matter? Is there any way to test if something is art, other than a large group of people standing around looking at it? Is art still capable of shocking us or have we seen it all before? Can you be a lovable character and a serious artist - what is a serious artist anyway? And what happens if you place a piece of art in a rubbish dump?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Finally I don't feel like a complete idiot when reading about or looking at modern art. This book addressed all the worrisome thoughts in my head about what actually constitutes "Art" and why I could not always tell if the criteria had been met to check the art box. I love that Grayson Perry doesn't take his potentially stuffy subject too seriously and has a tremendous and wry sense of humor (and of the absurd.) Recommended reading for anyone who feels a bit insecure about

speaking at art openings or just looking at the exhibits.

This is a small book. That is written in a chatty style. And includes not too perfectly drawn cartoons. It is also right on the money with regard to the quirks, foibles and state of the contemporary art world. Grayson relates what he observes as the philosophies and practices common in today's art world. In a backhanded way he swipes at some of those practices, while saying that he - as an artist (craftsperson?) himself - is grappling with those things too. I highly recommend reading this book and also *Seven Days in the Art World*. Those who have given this book a one-star rating are trying too hard... Maybe they need a dry, art history textbook. If they would take a deep breath, perhaps a sip of a well fermented adult beverage, then just relax and read not only what is said and drawn in this little gem but also what is written between the lines, then they will grasp the essence of the contemporary art world.

I'm no Perry-hater. I like some of his artwork and he's given plenty of interesting interviews. The sort of bloke who, in the unlikely event you ran into him down the boozier, would be good company for half an hour. (Whether he'd get quite so much out of the encounter is another matter of course. ) So I really wanted to like this book. For me, it's a bit rambling. There are some funny bits for sure, and some interesting comments, but he doesn't come close to developing any kind of central argument about art or the art world. In normal circumstances the book probably would have been given a good edit, but since it's essentially a transcript of the author's Reith lectures, there's probably very little any editor could do with it.

As a visual artist with 25 years' experience, I found this book insightful, inspirational, substantial and entertaining...

Written clearly even though the contemporary art world is a very unclear subject. I enjoyed his insights and as a working artist plugging along day to day I felt a tinge of inspiration too.

An interesting assessment of the contemporary art scene from an insider, an established artist. His book makes clear what someone outside this scene, as a casual observer, may already have surmised: contemporary art exists as a separate world from traditional art, as appreciated by most of the world's population, and consists of a relatively small group of people located in a few major cities of the world, who are curators, critics, gallery owners, and wealthy collectors. I found it

revelatory to read that, to become an artist of note in this world, talent and creativity are hardly enough: one needs a degree in art from a reputable school, and considerable knowledge of the history and development of contemporary art. It is truly a world unto itself.

I assume there are no customer reviews because many of us do not like to be negative. So I guess I will have to go first. First of all the Books title is a total misrepresentation. I bought the book because I do not appreciate contemporary art although I am an art lover. Based on the title I thought the author would enlighten me. He didn't even address the subject. The book is a self indulgent treatise on the authors experiences in the art world and some Readers Digest type commentary on art and artists in general. The writing is aimless, pointless, and conveys nothing. It reads like an assignment given in an English Class, write an essay on art, and the student writes everything he can think of, none of it very original and most of it cliches.

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