



INSIGHT

MAY 2019

In this monthly newsletter we bring together articles of interest and opinions from the world of art history and visual culture. This month we are re-sharing our most popular Spring social media posts.

NEW WAYS OF SEEING

New ways of seeing is a new four part radio programme in which James Bridle reimagines John Berger's 'Ways of Seeing' (1972) for the digital age. How do we see the world around us now, and who are the artists urging us to look more closely? How is technology changing the way we see?

<https://bbc.in/2OdFpZA>

A SECRET FEMINIST HISTORY

The recent re-discovery of an 18th Century book of illustrated plant life by Mary Wollstonecraft's sister-in-law, Anne Kingsbury Wollstonecraft, "is a testament to women's robust history of forging their own paths in the arts and sciences, formal training be damned".

<https://bit.ly/2DjxHXD>

CAMP OR CAMPY

Susan Sontag's 1964 essay 'Notes on Camp' was the inspiration for this year's Metropolitan Museum exhibition, which opens with a Met Gala. This year's Met Gala offered up an array of art and fashion history prompts, not least around the notion of camp. But was it really camp, or just campy?

<https://bit.ly/2XBRUks>

A FORGOTTEN FEMALE INDUSTRY

Women and early colour films is a fascinating and forgotten female industry. "The debate over color versus form, which dates back to Aristotle, came to a head in late 17th-century France. Since then, many aesthetic theorists, including the 20th-century philosopher Theodor W. Adorno, have argued that color is indeed inferior to form—a superficial topcoat, a feminine indulgence".

<https://bit.ly/37ylzPh>

WOMEN ON TOP

Why is it so hard for people to accept the intellectual and creative authority of women artists and writers? "Expectation is the better part of perception, most of it unconscious. Past experience determines how we confront the world in the present. Prejudgment and stereotyping are part of cognition, but those preordained ideas – authority is masculine, for example – are cultural." argues Siri Hustvedt.

<https://bit.ly/35pc189>

DECOLONISING AND DIVERSIFYING ARE DIFFERENT

A case study in changing approaches for teaching art history. "There is a long history of decolonial work in educational spaces. We acknowledge that the tools we shared with participants during this workshop as well as the thoughts we share here are a small part of this process. We recommend continuing this work in conversation with others who are also attempting to decolonise their classrooms (as well as spaces outside of academia)".

<https://bit.ly/37vjcxJ>