

# Highbrow Lowbrow The Emergence Of Cultural Hierarchy In America

Highbrow/Lowbrow HIGHBROW/LOWBROW: THE EMERGENCE OF CULTURAL HIERARCHY IN AMERICA. The Public and Its Possibilities Indian-made Catlin's Lament The Myth of Popular Culture When Highbrow Meets Lowbrow Small Worlds Feminism and the Politics of Literary Reputation Making San Francisco American Colonial America: An Encyclopedia of Social, Political, Cultural, and Economic History Critical Texts Communication Booknotes Images of Conquest in Imaginative Nineteenth Century North American Literature Exhibiting Contradiction Mother Jones Genre Museum Movies Exposures Bridging the Gap Lawrence W. LEVINE Lawrence W. Levine John D. Fairfield Erika Marie Bsumek John Hausdoerffer Perry Meisel Peter Swirski Elliott West Charlotte Templin Barbara Berglund James Ciment Louis Daniel Segal Alan Wallach Haidee Wasson Annette Jael Lehmann Carlos Xavier Rodriguez

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in this unusually wide ranging study spanning more than a century and covering such diverse forms of expressive culture as Shakespeare, Central Park, symphonies, jazz, art museums, the Marx Brothers, opera, and vaudeville, a leading cultural historian demonstrates how variable and dynamic cultural boundaries have been and how fragile and recent the cultural categories we have

learned to accept as natural and eternal are for most of the nineteenth century a wide variety of expressive forms shakespearean drama opera orchestral music painting and sculpture as well as the writings of such authors as dickens and longfellow enjoyed both high cultural status and mass popularity in the nineteenth century americans in addition to whatever specific ethnic class and regional cultures they were part of shared a public culture less hierarchically organized less fragmented into relatively rigid adjectival groupings than their descendants were to experience by the twentieth century this cultural eclecticism and openness became increasingly rare cultural space was more sharply defined and less flexible than it had been the theater once a microcosm of america housing both the entire spectrum of the population and the complete range of entertainment from tragedy to farce juggling to ballet opera to minstrelsy now fragmented into discrete spaces catering to distinct audiences and separate genres of expressive culture the same transition occurred in concert halls opera houses and museums a growing chasm between serious and popular between high and low culture came to dominate america s expressive arts if there is a tragedy in this development lawrence levine comments it is not only that millions of americans were now separated from exposure to such creators as shakespeare beethoven and verdi whom they had enjoyed in various formats for much of the nineteenth century but also that the rigid cultural categories once they were in place made it so difficult for so long for so many to understand the value and importance of the popular art forms that were all around them too many of those who considered themselves educated and cultured lost for a significant period and many have still not regained their ability to discriminate independently to sort things out for themselves and understand that simply because a form of expressive culture was widely accessible and highly popular it was not therefore necessarily devoid of any redeeming value or artistic merit in this innovative historical exploration levine not only traces the emergence of such familiar categories as highbrow and lowbrow at the turn of the century but helps us to understand more clearly both the process of cultural change and the nature of culture in american society

in his compelling reinterpretation of american history the public and its possibilities john fairfieldargues that our unrealized civic aspirations provide the essential counterpoint to an excessive focus on private interests inspired by the revolutionary generation nineteenth century americans struggled to build an economy and a culture to complement their republican institutions but over the course of the twentieth century a corporate economy and consumer culture undercut civic values conflating consumer and citizen fairfield places the city at the center of american experience describing how a resilient demand for an urban participatory democracy has bumped up against the fog of war the allure of the marketplace and persistent prejudices of race class and gender in

chronicling and synthesizing centuries of u s history including the struggles of the antislavery labor women s rights movements fairfield explores the ebb and flow of civic participation activism and democracy he revisits what the public has done for civic activism and the possibility of taking a greater role in this age where there has been a move towards greater participation in america s public life from its citizens fairfield s book written in an accessible jargon free style and addressed to general readers is especially topical

in works of silver and wool the navajos have established a unique brand of american craft and when their artisans were integrated into the american economy during the late nineteenth century they became part of a complex cultural and economic framework in which their handmade crafts conveyed meanings beyond simple adornment bsumek unravels the layers of meaning that surround the branding of indian made when navajo artisans produced their goods collaborating traders tourist industry personnel and even ethnologists created a vision of navajo culture that had little to do with navajos themselves and as anglos consumed navajo crafts they also consumed the romantic notion of navajos as primitives perpetuated by the marketplace these processes of production and consumption reinforced each other creating a symbiotic relationship and influencing both mutual anglo navajo perceptions and the ways in which navajos participated in the modern marketplace ultimately bsumek shows that the sale of indian made goods cannot be explained solely through supply and demand it must also reckon with the multiple images and narratives that grew up around the goods themselves integrating consumer culture tourism and history to open new perspectives on our understanding of american indian material culture book jacket

the first book to probe the conflicted attitudes that shaped and constrained noted painter george catlin famous for his 19th century paintings of vanishing native american culture forces readers to rethink their understanding of the artist despite his advocacy for native peoples

the myth of popular culture from dante to dylan is afascinating examination of the cultural traditions of the american novel hollywood and british and american rock music which leadsus to redefine our concept of the division between high and low culture a stimulating history of high and low culture from dantealighieri to bob dylan providing a controversial defence ofpopular culture seeks to rebut the durable belief that only high culture is dialectical and popular culture is not by turningtheodor adorno s theories

on pop againstthemselves presents a critical analysis of three popular traditions theamerican novel hollywood and british and american rock music offers an original account of bob dylan as an example of howthe distinction between high and low culture is highlyproblematic a provocative book for any student scholar or general reader who is interested in popular culture

this book examines nobrow a cultural formation that intertwines art and entertainment into an identifiable creative force in our eclectic and culturally turbocharged world the binary of highbrow vs lowbrow is incapable of doing justice to the complexity and artistry of cultural production until now the historical power aesthetic complexity and social significance of nobrow arertainment have escaped analysis this book rectifies this oversight smart funny and iconoclastic it scrutinizes the many faces of nobrow throwing surprising light on the hazards and rewards of traffic between high entertainment and genre art

thirteen essays treat children from the pre civil war generation to 1950 as active influential participants in society the essays are organized into four topics cultural and regional variation toys and play family life and the ways evolving memories of childhood shape how adults think of themselves

soon after its publication in 1973 fear of flying brought erica jong immense popular success and media fame alternately pegged sassy and vulgar jong s novel embraced the politics of the women s liberation movement and challenged the definition of female sexuality yet today more than twenty years and several books later literary reputation continues for the most part to elude jong typecast by her adversaries as a media seeking sensationalist erica jong has been unfairly side stepped by academia charlotte templin contends in this carefully researched study augmented by personal interviews with jong templin assembles and analyzes the medley of responses to jong s books by reviewers critics writers academics and the media by liberals conservatives and feminists she examines the diverse opinions on the merit and relevance to contemporary life of fear of flying the invocation of a high culture low culture dichotomy to discredit how to save your own life the anatomy of literary success with fanny jong s reception in a postfeminist age and the trivialization of jong s works that is inevitable with mass media exposure templin also shows how antagonistic reviewers tend to identify jong with her fictitious characters a practice more common when the author is a woman and judge her to be guilty of the sin of not being a proper woman in turn she shows how reviewers reveal something of their own values and ideological biases in their critiques and how literary reputations are built destroyed and altered over time the first book

to make a detailed examination of the reputation of a woman writer feminism and the politics of literary reputation provides an excellent case study for the literary reception of women writers within a broad cultural context templin s analysis offers valuable insight into the reception of women writers especially commercially successful women writers and dramatically illustrates the relation of literary reputation to popular appeal and cultural mores

focuses on the 19th century transformation in san francisco from gold rush to earthquake to show how the city s diverse residents created a modern american city through everyday cultural frontiers such as restaurants hotels and annual fairs and expositions among others

no era in american history has been more fascinating to americans or more critical to the ultimate destiny of the united states than the colonial era between the time that the first european settlers established a colony at jamestown in 1607 through the signing of the declaration of independence the outlines of america s distinctive political culture economic system social life and cultural patterns had begun to emerge designed to complement the high school american history curriculum as well as undergraduate survey courses colonial america an encyclopedia of social political cultural and economic history captures it all the people institutions ideas and events of the first three hundred years of american history while it focuses on the thirteen british colonies stretching along the atlantic colonial america sets this history in its larger contexts entries also cover canada the american southwest and mexico and the caribbean and atlantic world directly impacting the history of the thirteen colonies this encyclopedia explores the complete early history of what would become the united states including portraits of native american life in the immediate pre contact period early spanish exploration and the first settlements by spanish french dutch swedish and english colonists this monumental five volume set brings america s colonial heritage vibrantly to life for today s readers it includes thematic essays on major issues and topics detailed a z entries on hundreds of people institutions events and ideas thematic and regional chronologies hundreds of illustrations primary documents and a glossary and multiple indexes

a leading scholar of art art history and american studies considers the way art museums have depicted american society and the american past in closely focused and often controversial essays alan wallach explores the opposing ideologies that drove the development of the american art museum in the 19th century and the tensions and contradictions characteristic of recent museum

history 40 illustrations

in 1935 the foundation of the film library of the museum of modern art in new york marked the transformation of the film medium from a passing amusement to an enduring art form haidee wasson maps the work of the moma film library as it pioneered the preservation of film promoted the concept of art cinema

this book includes a discussion of the many possible definitions of popular music information on how popular musicians learn and specific examples of educational programs that incorporate popular music with suggestions on how to choose high quality repertoire from publisher s description

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