

Feedback Television Against Democracy

FeedbackArt vs. TVPostmodernism and Video ArtReFocus: The Films of Albert BrooksCorporate ImaginationsThe Democratic CenturyIcons of DemocracyTelevision on Your DoorstepDemocratic DelusionsMismanaging AmericaThe Role of the Media in a DemocracyThe Effects of Television on Children and AdolescentsContesting DemocracyPolitics Against DemocracyMulticulturalism and American DemocracyProjecting ParanoiaChallenge of DemocracyTimeDemocracy, Leadership and Accountability in Post-colonial AfricaMoney and Free Speech David Joselit Francesco Spampinato Liz Kim Christian B. Long Mari Dumett Seymour Martin Lipset Bruce Miroff Bernat López Richard J. Ellis Walter Williams Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung International Association for Mass Communication Research Byron E. Shafer Richard Stöss Symposium on Science, Reason, and Modern Democracy Ray Pratt Kenneth Janda Briton Hadden Terhemba Wuam Melvin I. Urofsky

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in a world where politics is conducted through images the tools of art history can be used to challenge the privatized antidemocratic sphere of american television american television embodies a paradox it is a privately owned and operated public communications network that most citizens are unable to participate in except as passive spectators television creates an image of community while preventing the formation of actual social ties because behind its simulated exchange of opinions lies a highly centralized corporate structure that is profoundly antidemocratic in feedback david joselit describes the privatized public sphere of television and recounts the tactics developed by artists and media activists in the 1960s and 1970s to break open its closed circuit the figures whose work joselit examines among them nam june paik dan graham joan jonas abbie hoffman andy warhol and melvin van peebles staged political interventions within television s closed circuit joselit identifies three kinds of image events feedback which can be both disabling noise and rational response as when abbie hoffman hijacked television time for the yippies with flamboyant stunts directed to the media the image virus which proliferates parasitically invading

transforming and even blocking systems as in nam june paik's synthesized videotapes and installations and the avatar a quasi fictional form of identity available to anyone which can function as a political actor as in melvin van peebles's invention of sweet sweetback an african american hero who appealed to a broad audience and influenced styles of black power activism these strategies writes joselit remain valuable today in a world where the overlapping information circuits of television and the internet offer different opportunities for democratic participation in feedback joselit analyzes such midcentury image events using the procedures and categories of art history the trope of figure ground reversal for instance is used to assess acts of representation in a variety of media including the medium of politics in a televisual world joselit argues where democracy is conducted through images art history has the capacity to become a political science

while highlighting the prevailing role of television in western societies art vs tv maps and condenses a comprehensive history of the relationships of art and television with a particular focus on the link between reality and representation francesco spampinato analyzes video art works installations performances interventions and television programs made by contemporary artists as forms of resistance to and appropriation and parody of mainstream television the artists discussed belong to different generations those that emerged in the 1960s in association with art movements such as pop art fluxus and happening and those appearing on the scene in the 1980s whose work aimed at deconstructing media representation in line with postmodernist theories to those arriving in the 2000s an era in which through reality shows and the internet anybody could potentially become a media personality and finally those active in the 2010s whose work reflects on how old media like television has definitively vaporized through the electronic highways of cyberspace these works and phenomena elicit a tension between art and television exposing an incongruence an impossibility not only to converge but at the very least to open up a dialogical exchange

liz kim traces the theories and artistic practices that articulated american experimental video through its key works and events art critical discourse as well as the politics of its funding and distribution during the 1970s into the 1980s focusing on new york this is a historical examination of the relationship between experimental video and postmodernism in the context of the early new york video scene as a foundational crucible of ideas and practices video grew out of both the acculturation of television as well as the resistance against its hegemonic forms as it enabled hybrid user generated content as such video became a testing ground for postmodern thought as it sat at the perfect nexus of mass media art and the politics of representation this book historicizes the theories of video art through the shifts in representations of cultural identities and the changes within its critical and structural supports through this process chapters uncover new roots of postmodernism through historical evidence widening the scope of the term and its concepts the book will be of interest to scholars working in art history film studies and media studies

this is the first sustained critical collection on albert brooks one of the key but under examined figures in american stand up television comedy and hollywood film comedy analysing every film written and directed by albert brooks including real life 1979 modern romance 1981 and lost in america 1985 as well as a number of his acting and voice over roles his stand up comedy albums talk show appearances

and writing the book argues that albert brooks not only merits a wider viewership both critical and popular but also that his career offers a useful lens through which to understand american film and culture since the late 1960s

the first extended study of the renowned artists collective fluxus corporate imaginations examines the group as it emerged on three continents from 1962 to 1978 in its complexities contradictions and historical specificity the collective s founder george maciunas organized fluxus like a multinational corporation simulating corporate organization and commodity flows yet it is equally significant that he imagined critical art practice in this way at that time for all its avant garde criticality fluxus also ambivalently shared aspects of the rising corporate culture of the day in this book mari dumett addresses the business of fluxus and explores the larger discursive issues of organization mediatization routinization automation commoditization and systematization that fluxus artists both manipulated and exposed a study of six central figures in the group george brecht alison knowles george maciunas nam june paik mieko shiomi and robert watts reveals how they developed historically specific strategies of mimicking the capitalist system these artists appropriated tools occupied spaces revealed operations and ultimately performed the system itself via aesthetics of organization communication events branding routine and global mapping through corporate imaginations fluxus artists proposed strategies for living as conscious creative subjects within a totalizing and increasingly global system demonstrating how these strategies must be repeated in an ongoing negotiation of new relations of power and control between subject and system

in this study on democracy and democratic systems two scholars offer an expansive view of democratic systems and explain why democracy has succeeded in some countries and has failed in others

in a blend of history biography political science and political theory he offers examples of the finest democratic leadership as well as cautionary tales of prominent leaders whose styles were essentially aristocratic book jacket

this work brings together 14 national reports and a detailed account of television in the european union it provides data on the contradictory processes of media globalization and decentralization and offers an optimistic approach to the future of television in the new era of digital broadcasting

it is becoming common in many states the opportunity to reclaim government from politicians by simply signing a petition to put an initiative on the ballot and then voting for it isn t this what america ought to be about proposition 13 in california s 1978 election paved the way the past decade saw more than 450 such actions now in many states direct legislation dominates the political agenda and defines political and public opinion while this may appear to be democracy in action richard ellis warns us that the initiative process may be putting democracy at risk in democratic delusions he offers a critical analysis of the statewide initiative process in the united states challenging readers to look beyond populist rhetoric and face political reality through engaging prose and illuminating and often amusing anecdotes ellis shows readers the dark side of direct democracy specifically the undemocratic consequences that result from relying too heavily on the

initiative process he provides historic context to the development of initiatives from their populist and progress roots to their accelerated use in recent decades and shows the differences between initiative processes in the states that use them most important while acknowledging the positive contribution of initiatives ellis shows that there are reasons to use them carefully and sparingly ill considered initiatives can subvert normal legislative checks and balances undermine the deliberative process and even threaten the rights of minority groups through state sanctioned measures today s initiative process ellis warns is dominated not by ordinary citizens but by politicians perennial activists wealthy interests and well oiled machines deliberately misleading language on the ballot confuses voters and influences election results and because many initiatives are challenged in the courts these ostensibly democratic procedures have now put legislation in the hands of the judiciary throughout his book he cites examples drawn from states in which initiatives are used intensively oregon california colorado washington and arizona as well as others in which their use has increased in recent years undoing mistakes enacted by initiative can be more difficult than correcting errors of legislatures as voters prepare to consider the host of initiatives that will be offered in the 2002 elections this book can help put those efforts in a clearer light democratic delusions urges moderation attempting to teach citizens to be at least as skeptical of the initiative process as they are of the legislative process and to appreciate the enduring value of the representative institutions they seek to circumvent

is the federal government inept walter williams says yes thanks to ronald reagan s ill conceived cutbacks reliable policy advice is no longer available to the president the result has been the s 1 bailout the hud scandal mismanagement on an unprecedented scale

leading scholars provide a comprehensive history of two centuries of u s politics contributions from a who s who of political historians

the election success of right wing extremists in west germany is limited but surveys have shown that up to 40per cent of the public show themselves to be susceptible to anti democratic slogans this book examines causes manifestations of right wing extremism and discusses possible counter measures

the fourteen essays in this volume address the pros and cons of multiculturalism and explore its relationship with liberal democracy

a wide ranging and idiosyncratic look at sixty years of politics and film that uncovers how american movies have mirrored and even challenged anxieties and paranoid perceptions embedded in american society since the start of the cold war the first book to take a sweeping look at 60 years of film and analyze them thematically

money greases the wheels of american politics from the local level to the white house in the 2004 presidential campaign president george w bush alone raised nearly 400 million in private and public funds nearly twenty times the combined total raised by john kennedy and richard nixon in 1960 to defeat challenger john f kerry further fueling anxiety over the power of money to dictate political results melvin urofsky one of our nation s most respected legal historians takes a fresh look at efforts to rein in campaign spending and counter efforts in the courts

to preserve the status quo he offers a thoughtful and balanced overview of campaign finance reform and the legal responses to it from the progressive era through the supreme court's landmark ruling in *mcconnell v fec* 2003 and its impact on the 2004 election urofsky focuses especially on the 1971 federal election campaign act and 2002 mccain feingold or bipartisan campaign reform act bera and on challenges to both in the supreme court in *buckley v valeo* 1976 the court upheld contribution limits but struck down expenditure caps on first amendment grounds in *mcconnell* it upheld the key provisions of *mccain feingold* in both cases however opponents argued that congressional control of campaign financing was an unconstitutional infringement of the free speech rights of campaign contributors urofsky deftly steers the reader through this contentious and complex history revealing how both congress and the courts have navigated uneasily between the scylla of potential corruption and the charybdis of suppressing political speech ironically despite the court's decision upholding *mccain feingold* the 2004 presidential election was the most expensive in history because as urofsky notes money is the mother's milk of politics and both candidates and donors will always find ways to keep it flowing his book provides an excellent and succinct guide to the controversies and historical debates emerging from that fact

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