Seeing Witness Visuality and the Ethics of Testimony

By Jane Blocker

Univ Of Minnesota Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 192 pages. Dimensions: 9.9in. x 7.0in. x 0.5in.The act of bearing witness can reveal much, but what about the figure of the witness itself As contemporary culture is increasingly dominated by surveillance, the witnesswhether artist, historian, scientist, government official, or ordinary citizenhas become empowered in realms from art to politics. In Seeing Witness, Jane Blocker challenges the implicit authority of witnessing through the examination of a series of contemporary artworks, all of which make the act of witnessing visible, open to inspection and critique. Considering such artists as Marina Abramovic, James Luna, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Eduardo Kac, and Ann Hamilton, Blocker investigates the artists and spectators who look, the technologies they look with, and the forms of power and moral authority that permit their viewing. Going beyond particular traumatic or sensational events, Blocker contemplates the politics of witnessing and argues that the witness represents a morally uniqueand even problematicposition of privilege. Separating Seeing Witness from previous literature on the subject, she finds that the visual is inherent in witnessing and asserts that contemporary art is integral to questioning and understanding how witnessing is mobilized in culture today. This item ships from multiple...

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