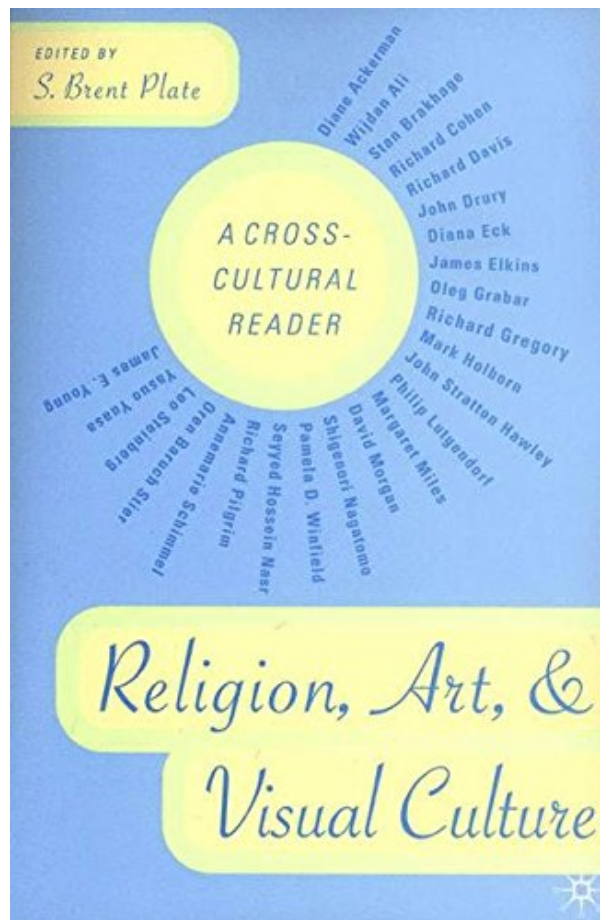
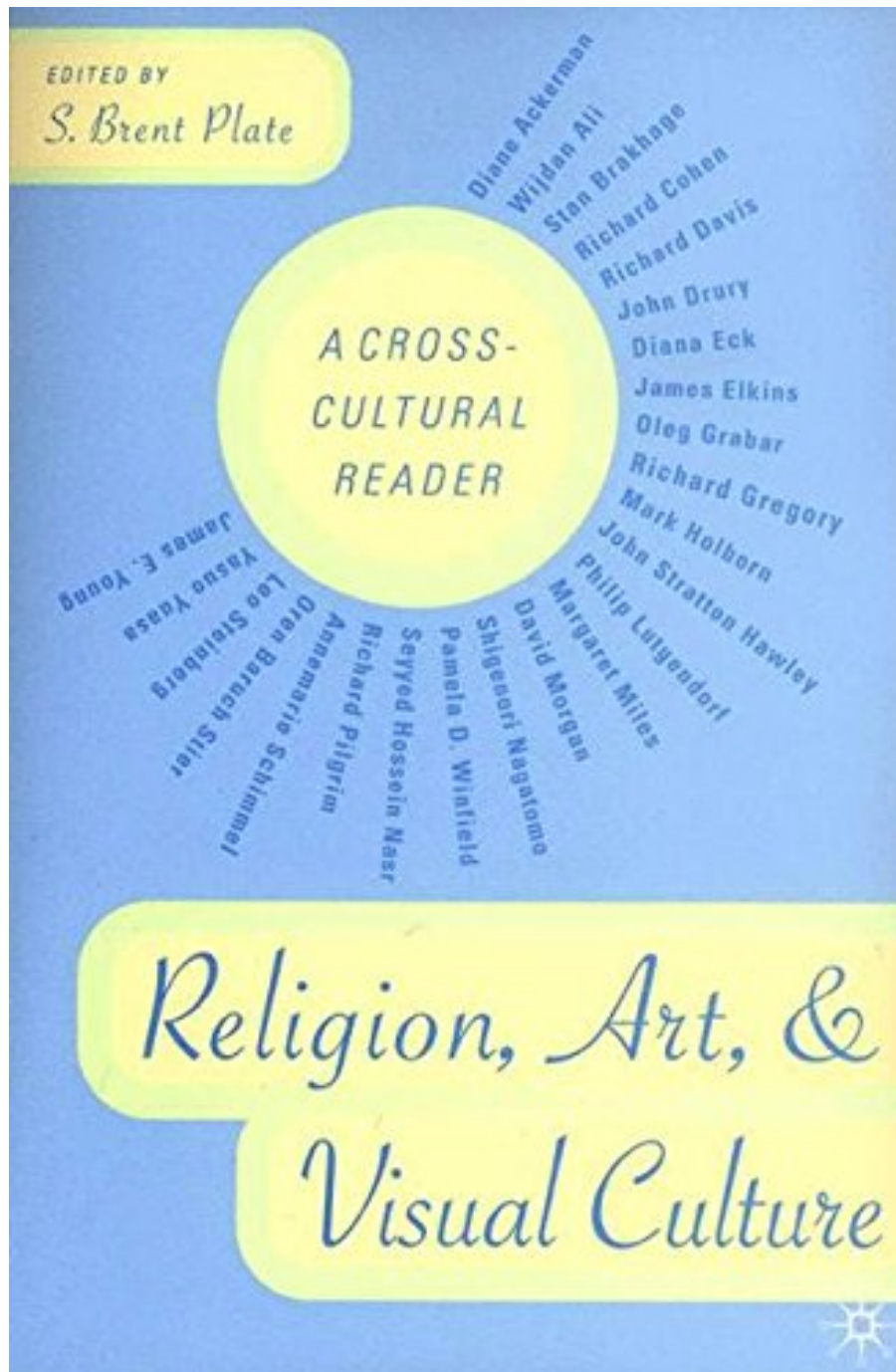


RELIGION, ART, AND VISUAL CULTURE: A CROSS-CULTURAL READER FROM EDITOR S BRENT PLATE



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Review

'The essays in Religion, Art, and Visual Culture roam across Renaissance art galleries, YMCA lobbies, Zen Gardens, Hindu movie palaces and Holocaust museums to reveal what is unique and what is common in our human desire to see God-and His/Her desire to see us. It is an enlightening trip for anyone who keeps an altar, or wonders why other people do.' -

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'Timely, well-conceived, and clearly organized, Plate's book is also important. It considers how art is joined to religion, a concern and a weakness of Western religious traditions since antiquity, welcomes other religious traditions to the discussion, and incorporates visual culture, a field of vital scholarly interest from the 1990s. The selections anthologized here will enrich many discourses and help us understand how the holy might be communicated.' - Robert Nelson, Professor of Art History, University of Chicago and editor of *Visuality Before and Beyond the Renaissance*

'Brent Plate's well-chosen volume pulses with the excitement and deep purpose of popular imagery from the world's major religions. God exists in the visual details of everyday life, as well as in the high arts of formal religion. Readers will learn how sacred icons intersect with mass media, Islamic calligraphy with made-for-TV Hindu epics, Zen gardens with Holocaust memorials.' - Allen F. Roberts, Professor, UCLA, Dept. of World Arts & Cultures

'The book is a good beginning point for religion and cultural studies classes at the undergraduate and graduate level.' - Nadine Pence Frantz, *Religious Studies Review*

About the Author

S. BRENT PLATE is Assistant Professor of Religion and the Visual Arts at Texas Christian University. His previous publications include the edited volumes, *Imag(in)ing Otherness: Filmic Visions of Living Together* and *The Apocalyptic Imagination: Aesthetics and Ethics at the End of the World*. He is Film Review Editor of the *Journal of Religion and Film* and Associate Editor of *Literature and Theology*.

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Religion, Art, and Visual Culture is a cross-cultural exploration of the study of visibility and the arts from a religious perspective. This forward looking and accessible collection gathers together the most current scholarship for those interested in art, religion, visual culture, and cultural studies. Inherently interdisciplinary, this reader approaches the study of world religions through the human, meaning-making activity of seeing. The volume oscillates between specific visual subjects (painting, landscape gardens, calligraphy, architecture, mass media) and the broader theoretical discourses which are relevant to Humanities students today.

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- Religion Art and Visual Culture A Cross Cultural Reader

Review

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Bad images

By Devon

The quality of the images really bothers me in this book. Every picture is printed in grainy black and white. It really detracts from the full glory the images are supposed to project. As an art text, this is unacceptable.

Other than that, it's a fairly good book. Selections are smartly chosen and well-edited.

32 of 32 people found the following review helpful.

A reader in Ohio

By A Customer

This is an amazing book. It opens up all kinds of interesting questions about the importance of seeing and vision in a range of different religious contexts. In each major section, Plate invites us to approach a religious tradition not through its main scriptures but through a visual medium. Islam, for example, is approached via calligraphy as a way of thinking about the written word as image. Buddhism is approached through zen gardens as a way of thinking about the concept of shinjin (mind-body). I used this book as the primary textbook for a college course called "Religion and Visual Culture." It was a huge success. It is filled with interesting ideas and fresh approaches, and it is great reading. I highly recommend it.

0 of 23 people found the following review helpful.

i hate it

By luciano chavez

it sucked

i did not like it because the writing was to small and the images were to dull. i think this book could be garbage and not more than just propoganda. it talks a lot about stuff that has already been written in the Bibal. it talks a lot about icons and plotonic images but that is just boring to me. i would not recommend reading it.

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