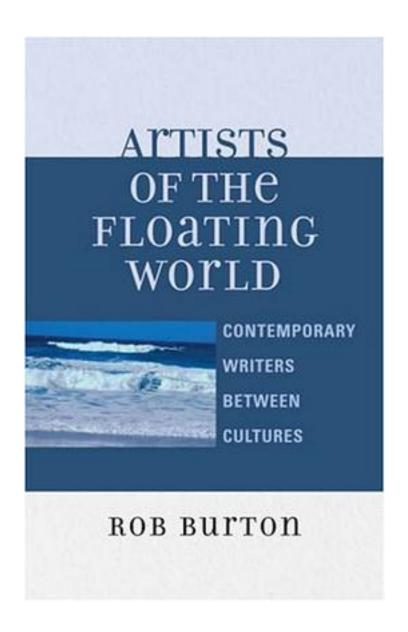
Artists of the Floating World



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This work analyzes the fiction of four contemporary multicultural writers who render a "floating world" in which cultures converge or collide in unexpected, exciting, and dangerous ways. The novels and short stories of Kazuo Ishiguro, Bessie Head, Bharati Mukherjee, and Salman Rushdie explore a literal and metaphorical floating world (adapted from the Japanese concept of "ukiyo"-a still-point between briefly-held earthly pleasures and spiritual immutability) where the characters, like their authors, are poised between conflicting worlds, cultures, and traditions. The manner in which these four authors articulate such a "floating" experience, Burton argues, enriches our understanding and appreciation of the increasingly interconnected world around us.

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