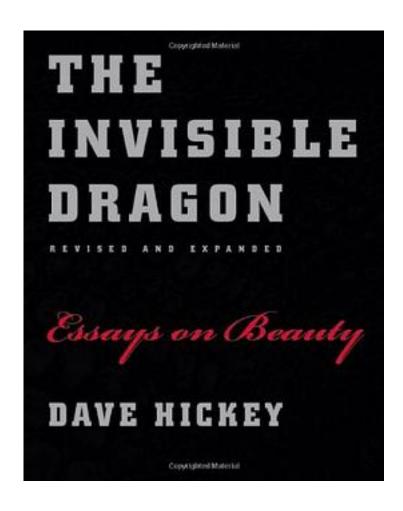
The Invisible Dragon



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Dave Hickey's "The Invisible Dragon" exploded like a bomb in the world of art criticism when it was originally published in 1993. Championed by artists for its forceful call for attention to beauty, and savaged by more theoretically oriented critics who had long dismissed the very concept of beauty as naive, the book ignited a debate that has

shown no sign of flagging. With this newly revised and expanded edition, Hickey is back to fan the flames. More manifesto than polite discussion, more call to action than criticism, "The Invisible Dragon" aims squarely at the hyper-institutionalism that, in Hickey's view, attempts to deny the real pleasures that draw viewers to art in the first place. Deploying the artworks of Warhol, Raphael, Caravaggio, and Mapplethorpe and the writings of Ruskin, Shakespeare, and Foucault, Hickey takes on museum culture, arid academicism, sclerotic politics, and more - all in the service of making readers rethink the nature of art. A new introduction provides context for the earlier essays - what Hickey calls his 'intellectual temper tantrums' - while a new essay, 'American Beauty,' concludes the volume with a historical argument that is a rousing paean to the inherently democratic nature of attention to beauty. Written with a verve and dynamism all too rare in serious criticism, this expanded and refurbished edition of "The Invisible Dragon" will be sure to captivate a whole new generation of readers, provoking the passionate reactions that are the hallmark of great art.

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