



Antonioni: Centenary Essays

By Laura Rascaroli, John David Rhodes

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This collection of new essays by leading film scholars addresses Michelangelo Antonioni as a pre-eminent figure in European art cinema, explores his continuing influence and legacy, and engages with his ability to both interpret and shape ideas of modernity and modern cinema.

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Editorial Review

Review

Essential reading for those who want to delve into the work of one of the authors constantly referred to as pivotal in art cinema.' - *Historical Journal of Film, Radio and Television*

'The essays collected in this volume reappraise the centrality and continuing influence of Antonioni's unique, demanding, and controversial language to world filmmakers. They testify that, even from a cultural and historical moment different from ours, his films can give us insights that allow to look with new eyes at the complexities and contradictions of late-modernity.' - British Universities Film & Video Council

'The editors of this centenary essay collection tackle the inherited critical view on Antonioni ("Interstitial, Pretentious, Alienated, Dead: Antonioni at 100") in a helpful introduction, before opening the floor to a variety of specialised viewpoints.' - Tim Robey, *The Daily Telegraph*

'The contributors to *Antonioni: Centenary Essays* approach the director's works with fresh, new inspiration and contemporary critical methodologies that underscore Antonioni's continued relevance to the cinema of our day, adding numerous original insights on such topics as Antonioni's documentaries, his relationship to Rome, and his last films, while providing fresh perspectives on the classics of the Antonioni canon, such as *L'avventura*, *Red Desert*, and *Blow-Up*. This is a book that belongs in the library of every spectator who loves the art of film-making.' - Peter Bondanella, Indiana University, USA

'*Antonioni: Centenary Essays* is an exemplary model for writing on cinema and modernity, a timely occasion for rethinking media reception in the twenty-first century through revaluation of Antonioni's films. The compelling essays, written by leading film scholars, challenge time-worn assessments of Antonioni's cinema, and situate their discussions in relation to aesthetics, film history, the character and specificity of the connections of his work to other media, and innovatively and significantly, to ecology (space, climate, and waste) as illuminative of his visual style.' - Marcia Landy, University of Pittsburgh, USA

'*Antonioni: Centenary Essays* is an important volume, and is certainly not an introductory reader in terms of coverage or ambition. As well as offering some challenging contemporary responses to Antonioni's work, it also offers an intriguing snapshot of how Italian cinema is situated as an area of film studies with more than a few opacities of its own.' - Derek Duncan, *Screen*

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From the Back Cover

The cinema of Michelangelo Antonioni (1912–2007) embodies – more than that of any other director – the substance of European art cinema. His intensely stylised, stylish, demanding and gratifying films continue to spark controversy and debate – and inspire intense allegiance. On the centenary of Antonioni's birth, this volume places his work in an expanded field in order to reassess his contribution and continued centrality to world cinema. The contributors to this volume argue for an understanding of his work in a variety of new contexts: transnational cinema; conceptual photography; intermediality; thing theory; ecological and climate change theory; rubbish theory; microhistorical urbanism; the theory of the picturesque; and the theory of style.

The Antonioni that emerges across these essays is an artist profoundly engaged in formal experimentation and deeply embedded in the complexities of his cultural and historical moment, whose work, therefore, continues to offer itself as a rich resource for thinking through the contradictory conditions of late modernity in the twenty-first century.

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