Art As Art The Selected Writings Of Ad Reinhardt Documents

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ad reinhardt is probably best known for his black paintings which aroused as much controversy as admiration in the american art world when they were first exhibited in the 1950s although his ideas about art and life were often at odds with those of his contemporaries they prefigured the ascendance of minimalism reinhardt s interest in the orient and in religion his strong convictions about the value of abstraction and his disgust with the commercialism of the art world are as fresh and valid today as they were when he first expressed them

the paintings of the american artist ad reinhardt were from the start defined by their clear geometrical forms reinhardt who before his training as a painter had received a degree in art history rejected any kind of fusion between art and life or any mystification of painting around 1953 he did his first black paintings in which every tendency to colour seemed to fade from 1960 his paintings were all only black which he himself described as the last paintings that anyone can paint the encounter between ad reinhardt and josef albers in 1952 1953 and their ensuing dialogues on the meaning of colour within the painting process were for the young reinhardt an important impulse on his path towards his black paintings presented in this book is his oeuvre from the end of the 1930s to the late works their special relevance can be

recognised in juxtaposition with the works of josef albers

the first retrospective in 30 years on the immensely influential abstractionist theorist art world scourge and forefather of minimalism the first monographic exhibition on the artist in spain and one of the most complete surveys ever curated in europe art is art and everything else is everything elseillustrates ad reinhardt s tremendous influence on abstract expressionism as well as subsequent contemporary art styles reinhardt s paintings are rarely representational and are instead composed of geometrics and eventually only color canvases of all red all blue all black organized with the institutional support of the ad reinhardt foundation this catalog includes a selection of approximately 50 paintings and works on paper spanning reinhardt s career from early drawings paintings and collages to later works characterized by a progressive reduction of color and form another focal point of the volume is reinhardt s passions and artistic pursuits beyond painting including his slides writings on art illustrations in newspapers books magazines and pamphlets and his comics satirizing the art world and politics ad reinhardt 1913 67 was born in buffalo new york and studied art history at columbia university from 1931 to 1935 after which he participated in the wpa federal art project initiative reinhardt soon became an official member of the newly formed american abstract artist group alongside painters such as josef albers and jackson pollock he exhibited regularly and taught at brooklyn college for the remainder of his life

michael corris examines ad reinhardt s life and work charting the development of his entire oeuvre from abstract paintings to graphic artwork to illustrations and cartoons

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