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Material culture has finally earned a central place within anthropology. Emerging from the pioneering work done at University College London, this reader brings together for the first time seminal articles that have helped shape the anthropological study of material culture. With topics ranging from the anthropology of art to architecture, landscape studies, archaeology, consumption studies and heritage management, this key text reflects the breadth of material culture studies today. The authors, who discuss field sites as distant as Vanuatu, New Ireland, Trinidad and Soviet Russia, show how material culture provides a new lens for viewing the world around us and effectively bridges the gap between theory and data. Providing the first-ever synthesis of these groundbreaking essays in an easily accessible volume, this book will serve as a comprehensive introduction to the subject and a valuable reference guide for anyone interested in material culture, anthropology, art and museum studies.

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The Material Culture Reader From Brand: Berg Publishers Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #2132023 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Berg Publishers
- Published on: 2002-11-01
- Released on: 2002-11-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.21" h x .60" w x 6.14" l, .90 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 256 pages



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Editorial Review

Review

This is a useful 'reader' for those who are specifically interested in detailed issues raised by recent research into aspects of material culture. The Art Book This book demonstrates the relevance of material culture studies by the insights it gives many areas of human endeavour. I recommend it to those interested in anthropology, art, museum studies and material culture. The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology, Pamela Swadling

About the Author

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