

NEW TITLE


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Avant-garde Art and Criticism in Francoist Spain

Paula Barreiro López

- Fills a gap in the history of Spanish Art and contributes significantly to the scholarship on the second and final phases of the regime.
- Proposes a new interpretation of the art, culture and politics of the time and puts forward an original and innovative point of view.
- Based on extensive archival material, until now unavailable in English, and uses an interdisciplinary approach (art history and theory, intellectual history, politics as well as ideology).
- Written for undergraduate teaching and graduate teaching.

This groundbreaking book surveys the shifts in the aesthetic discourse and artistic practises that decisively influenced the shaping of the avant-garde during Franco's dictatorship (1939-1975). On the basis of extensive, so far unpublished, archival material, it discusses the intellectual and cultural field as an important battlefield for fighting the regime from within. The study opens with a comprehensive historical overview on the cultural world from the end of the Spanish Civil War throughout Francoism and reveals for the first time the broader intellectual and cultural context of vanguard art considering the special relations and negotiation processes between artist, critics and institutions during a major gap in the historiography of post-war Spanish culture: the late Franco dictatorship (1959-1975). It then analyses in depth the important role that a group of art critics played as theoreticians and peers in key artistic movements from the 1950s onwards. Using their extensive international networks in the midst of the Cold War period, they decisively influenced the aesthetic and cultural debates of their time and very concretely helped shaping a completely new discourse for the avant-garde in Spain.

Paula Barreiro López is a lecturer in Art History at the University of Barcelona and head of the international research project *Modernidad(es) Descentralizada(s)*. She is the author of *La abstracción geométrica en España* (2009).

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