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978-0-521-12097-5 - Modernism, Cultural Production, and the British Avant-Garde

Edward P. Comentale

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MODERNISM, CULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND THE BRITISH AVANT-GARDE

Edward Comentale exposes the links between art, literature and early twentieth-century capitalism. Comentale shows how apparently progressive avant-garde movements in their celebration of individualism, competition, and labor worked hand in hand with a market defined by a monstrous increase in production and consumption. Most importantly, he unearths an alternative modernist practice based on a special kind of production that both critiques and challenges economic production at large. He goes on to argue that the British avant-garde, which has often been criticized for its emphasis on classical stasis and restraint, sought to halt this market activity and to think of less destructive ways of communal belonging. Comentale provides an interdisciplinary study examining art and sculpture as well as writing by Virginia Woolf, T. S. Eliot, and H. D., among others, in the light of psychoanalytic, economic, and political theory. This book will be of interest to scholars of literary and cultural modernism.

EDWARD P. COMENTALE is Assistant Professor of Literature in the Department of English at Indiana University. He is the author of articles on international modernism, the avant-garde, and twentieth-century film.

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For Kimberly Munroe

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