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978-0-521-01631-5 - Recycled Culture in Contemporary Art and Film: The Uses of Nostalgia

Vera Dika

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RECYCLED CULTURE IN CONTEMPORARY ART AND FILM

THE USES OF NOSTALGIA

The reuse of past images, plots, and genres from film history has become a prominent feature of contemporary culture. Vera Dika explores this practice from a broad range of critical perspectives, examining works of art and film that resist the pull of the past. Dika provides an in-depth analysis of works in several media, including performance, photography, Punk film, as well as mainstream American and European films. Noting the renewed importance of the image and of genre, she investigates works as diverse as Cindy Sherman's *Untitled Film Stills*, Amos Poe's *The Foreigner*, Terence Malick's *Badlands*, and Francis Ford Coppola's *One from the Heart*. Her study positions avant-garde art work within the context of contemporary mainstream film practice, as well as in relationship to each work's historical moment.

Vera Dika teaches American cinema at the University of California, Los Angeles and the University of Southern California. She is the author of *Games of Terror*, has contributed to an anthology on Francis Ford Coppola's *The Godfather* trilogy, and has also published film criticism for the *Los Angeles Times*, *Art in America*, and *Art Forum*.

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The background of the book cover is a grayscale photograph of a man in a tuxedo looking to the right. Overlaid on this image are various elements: a woman's face in the foreground, a palm tree graphic, and a stylized graphic of a city skyline with the word 'HOT' written in a script font. The title and author information are centered on the page.

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,
Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Mexico City

Cambridge University Press

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.orgInformation on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521016315

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First published 2003

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library**Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication Data*

Dika, Vera, 1951–

Recycled culture in contemporary art and film : the uses of nostalgia / Vera Dika.

p. cm. – (Cambridge studies in film)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-521-81568-1 – ISBN 0-521-01631-2 (pbk.)

1. Nostalgia in motion pictures. 2. Nostalgia in art. 3. Art, American – 20th century. I. Title. II. Series.

PN1995.9.N67 D55 2003

791.43 '653 – dc21

2002035001

ISBN 978-0-521-81568-0 Hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-01631-5 Paperback

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To

Henry, Alexandra, and My Parents

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Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Bill Rothman for his interest in this subject from the beginning, for his continued and unflinching support of the project, and for his insights and comments. To be fair, however, Bill's influence started well before the book idea ever came into the discussion. As my professor at New York University, he challenged and inspired me, as did my other teachers, Bill Simon, P. Adams Sitney, Noel Carroll, and Robert Stam, with their innovative inquiry into the study of film. I would also like to thank Marsha Kinder, David James, Nick Browne, and Janet Bergstrom, my colleagues at both USC and UCLA, who have supported my efforts all these years. Some things, however, would never have been written if the computer didn't get fixed or if the documents remained lost. For this I have to thank Ali Nasri for his endless patience and Leiko Hamada for her sense of humor. Of course, the long process of writing a book is also sustained by friends who sit through long-winded discussions of topics they may find of only casual interest. For this I thank Bailey A. Rosen, my lifelong friend, for her conversation and continuing devotion, as well as Yardenna Hurvitz and Wendy Dozoretz, for always having faith in me. In this category are also my champion supporters: my husband Henry, whose love and continued care guides me through difficulty and who graces my life with happiness and understanding, and my daughter Alexandra, whose strength and intelligence makes my whole world shine. I would also like to thank Marian Keane for her hard work and careful comments on reading the manuscript, and my great friend Tom Hopkins, who always loved *One from the Heart*. And lastly, I thank my parents, who loved pictures, and who loved me.

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Figure 1. Christina Ricci as Bette Davis in *The Fashion of the Times* (Spring, 2000). Photograph by Marc Rolston.