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978-0-521-84109-2 - The Museum Establishment and Contemporary Art: The Politics of Artistic Display in France after 1968

Rebecca J. DeRoo

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## THE MUSEUM ESTABLISHMENT AND CONTEMPORARY ART

This book provides an in-depth account of the protests that shook France in 1968 and which served as a catalyst to a radical reconsideration of artistic practice that has shaped both art and museum exhibitions up to the present. Rebecca DeRoo examines how issues of historical and personal memory, the separation of public and private domains, and the ordinary objects of everyday life emerged as central concerns for museums and for artists, as both struggled to respond to the protests. She argues that the responses of the museums were only partially faithful to the aims of the activist movements. Museums, in fact, often misunderstood and misrepresented the work of artists that was exhibited as a means of addressing these concerns. Analyzing how museums and critics did and did not address the aims of the protests, DeRoo highlights the issues relevant to the politics of the public display of art that have been central to artistic representation in France, as well as in North America.

Rebecca J. DeRoo is an assistant professor of art history at Washington University in St. Louis. A scholar of contemporary art, she has contributed to *parallax* and the *Oxford Art Journal* and curated the exhibition *Beyond the Photographic Frame* at the Art Institute of Chicago, which was supported by a Rhoades Foundation Fellowship. She has also received fellowships from the Fulbright Commission and the Javits Foundation, as well as an award from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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Rebecca J. DeRoo  
Washington University in St. Louis



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*For Joe*

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