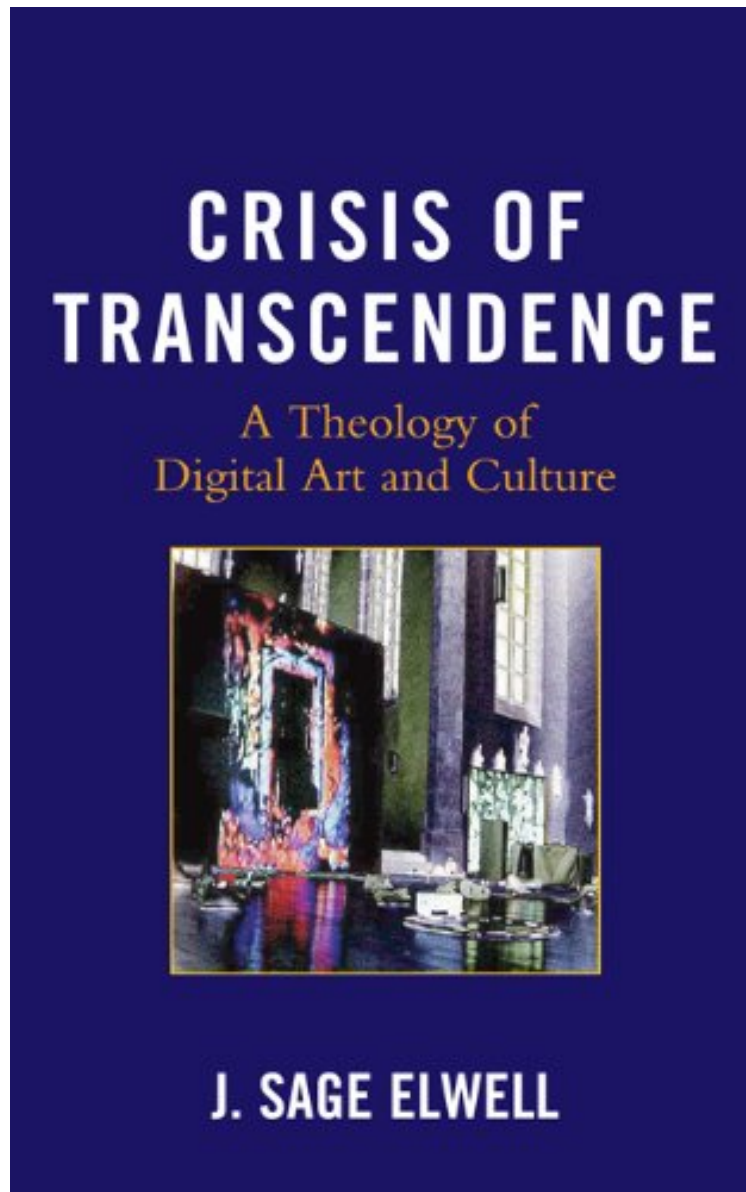


(Mobile ebook) Crisis of Transcendence: A Theology of Digital Art and Culture

Crisis of Transcendence: A Theology of Digital Art and Culture

J. Sage Elwell

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J. Sage Elwell : Crisis of Transcendence: A Theology of Digital Art and Culture before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Crisis of Transcendence: A Theology of Digital Art and Culture:

From the Internet to the iPhone, digital technology is no mere cultural artifact. It affects how we experience and understand our world and ourselves at the deepest levels-it is a fundamental condition of living. The digitization of modern life constitutes an essential field of religious concern because it impacts our individual and cultural sensibilities so profoundly. Despite this, it has yet to be thematized as the subject of religious or theological reflection. The Crisis of Transcendence remedies this by asking a single significant question: How is digital technology impacting the moral and spiritual depth of culture? How can something as ineffable and nebulous as the depth of culture be known and articulated, let alone critiqued? Author J. Sage Elwell suggests that an answer lies in the arts. The arts have historically acted as a barometer of the depth of culture, reflecting the spiritual impulses and inclinations at the heart of society. He argues that if the arts matter at all, they will illuminate more than themselves. Through an experimental interpretation of digital art, Elwell offers a critical reflection on how digital technology is changing us and the world we live in at a level of religious significance. Employing a theological aesthetic of digital art, this book shows how the advent of digital technology as a revolutionary cultural medium is transforming the ways we think about God, the soul, and morality.

At the cusp of the post-human age, theologians and humanists are challenged to rethink and, infinitely more important, re-imagine the regions where the human overlaps with the animal, the technological, and the divine. Elwell's *The Crisis of Transcendence* amplifies the possibilities at the edge of this crisis. The 'experimental theology of culture' provided herein is necessary to the survival of the scientist, the artist, and the theologian alike. (S. Brent Plate, author of *Blasphemy: Art that Offends and Walter Benjamin, Religion, and Aesthetics*) Elwell breaks new ground in *The Crisis of Transcendence*, by exploring the concept of liminality at the intersection of technology, the arts and theology. (Hans Breder, University of Iowa) This work in the theology of culture unfolds through a well-organized structure: Elwell builds his model of digital art using four relationships between form and content. For each of these relationships, he correlates a specific artistic movement, an interpretive logic, and a theological diagnosis related to our cultural understanding of technology. His examination of the movements of digital art—rather than more traditional artworks—makes this an important contribution to religion and the arts, while its theological argument offers an unusual (and worthwhile) mediation of contemporary theological engagement with technology. (Religious Studies) About the Author Sage Elwell is assistant professor in the Department of Religion at Texas Christian University.