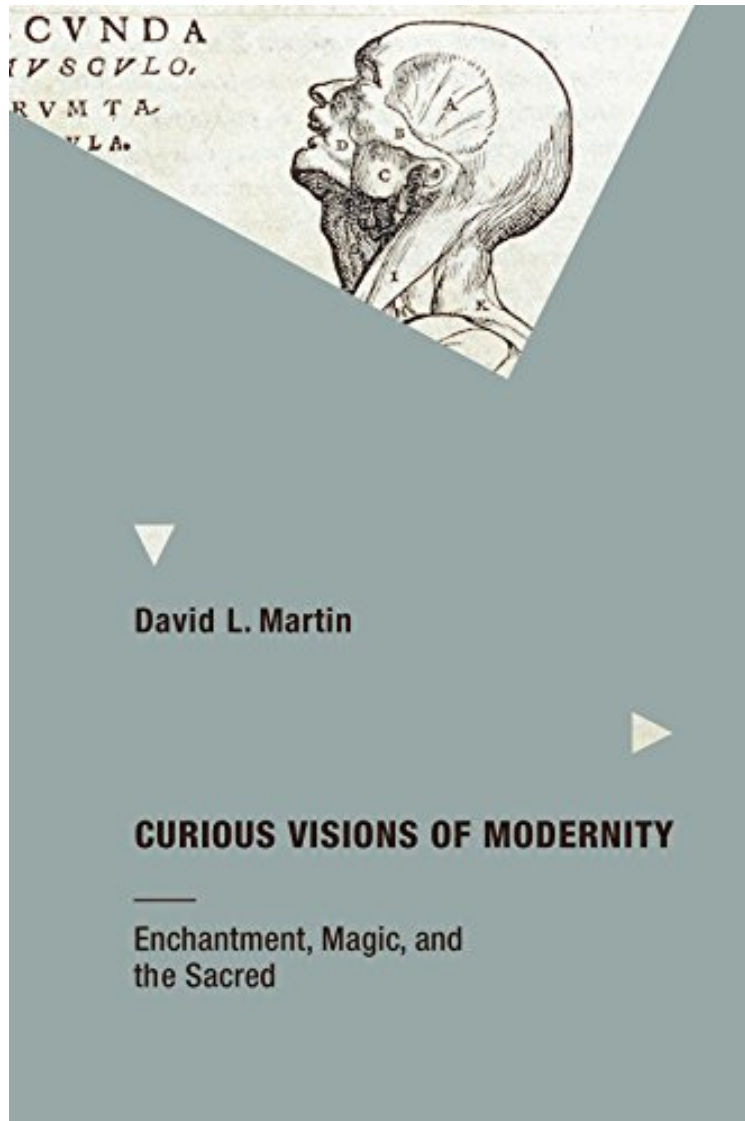


(Free) Curious Visions of Modernity: Enchantment, Magic, and the Sacred (MIT Press)

Curious Visions of Modernity: Enchantment, Magic, and the Sacred (MIT Press)

David L Martin

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David L Martin : Curious Visions of Modernity: Enchantment, Magic, and the Sacred (MIT Press) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Curious Visions of Modernity: Enchantment, Magic, and the Sacred (MIT Press):

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Modernity will come to an end
By GasmepMan this book packs a punchhe does a better job than most in terms of analyzing the 3 key points of modernity being a new form of homogenous magic that attempts to erase heterogeneityhe shows how the body aka corpus (also read Berman law and

revolution part 1 and 2) has been used as the main vehicular manslaughter by the west to subject all of us to their forms of magic shows through the genealogy of landscaping and cartography the west has changed and attempted to put the world on a cartesian grid to many to mention man this guy is way better than Foucault who could not let go of the 17th and 18th century.....im adding him to my list of greats (Baudrillard, Fela Kuti, etc) keep up the good stuff Mr Martin its well appreciated Egbesu

Rembrandt's famous painting of an anatomy lesson, the shrunken head of an Australian indigenous leader, an aerial view of Paris from a balloon: all are windows to enchantment, curiosities that illuminate something shadowy and forgotten lurking behind the neat facade of a rational world. In *Curious Visions of Modernity*, David Martin unpacks a collection of artifacts from the visual and historical archives of modernity, finding in each a slippage of scientific rationality--a repressed heterogeneity within the homogenized structures of post-Enlightenment knowledge. In doing so, he exposes modernity and its visual culture as haunted by precisely those things that rationality sought to expunge from the "enlightened" world: enchantment, magic, and wonderment. Martin traces the genealogies of what he considers three of the most distinct and historically immediate fields of modern visual culture: the collection, the body, and the mapping of spaces. In a narrative resembling the many-drawer curiosity cabinets of the Renaissance rather than the locked glass cases of the modern museum, he shows us a world renewed through the act of collecting the wondrous and aberrant objects of Creation; tortured and broken flesh rising from the dissecting tables of anatomy theaters to stalk the discourses of medical knowledge; and the spilling forth of a pictorializing geometry from the gilt frames of Renaissance panel paintings to venerate a panoptic god. Accounting for the visual disenchantment of modernity, Martin offers a curious vision of its reenchantment.

"David L. Martin presents a fascinating and complicated history of attempted erasures and concealed embraces. Spanning the early modern through the postmodern periods, Martin focuses on collections, images, and taxonomies as he traces the persistent--and highly ambivalent--presence of heterogeneity within systems of scientific knowledge, and their corresponding impact on the formations of discourses and subjects. In so doing, he examines where and how beliefs become stored in key cultural and discursive locations that potentially show us where modernity still keeps its magic."--Marcia Brennan, Department of Art History, Rice University; author of *Curating Consciousness: Mysticism and the Modern Museum* (Marcia Brennan)"David Martin is the ultimate collector, and his *Curious Visions of Modernity* functions like a 21st-century Wunderkammer. The exhibits include Charlemagne's reliquary, Rembrandt's *Anatomy Lesson of Dr. Nicolaas Tulp*, Andrea Pozzo's trompe-l'oeil ceilings, rare mappamundi, and even a Christian labyrinth housed in Chartres Cathedral. This book--erudite and beautifully written--is an Arcades Project for our postmodern times."--Ruben Gallo, author of *Freud's Mexico: Into the Wilds of Psychoanalysis and Mexican Modernity: The Avant-Garde and the Technological Revolution* (Ruben Gallo)"David Martin is a consummate scholar who has uncovered a treasure trove of captivating hidden associations that weave a compellingly eloquent and critical account of his topic. This is a very pleasurable read that makes us consider more deeply our understandings of the very structures that underpin Western modernity."--Natalija Subotincic, artist and Professor of Architecture, University of Manitoba (Natalija Subotincic)"In his archaeology of the visual, Martin brings back to life the wonderment and enchantment that characterized those earlier forms of knowledge and representation that modern, 'rational' knowledge defined itself against, and sought to extirpate. This repression, he shows, never fully succeeded. Along the way the reader encounters curiosity cabinets, practices of vivisection, iconography and cartography, in a book that is learned, quirky, imaginative, original--and immensely readable."--Sanjay Seth, author of *Subject Lessons* (Sanjay Seth)"In discovering traces of magic beneath our systems of knowledge, Martin does more than provide an alternative history of rational progress, but points to moments of curiosity remaining among us. Martin's joy in this modern magic is winning. It's as if he'd seen a statue move."--Evan McMurry, BooksLutAbout the Author David L. Martin is Managing Editor of the journal *Postcolonial Studies* and teaches in the Department of Politics at Goldsmiths, University of London.