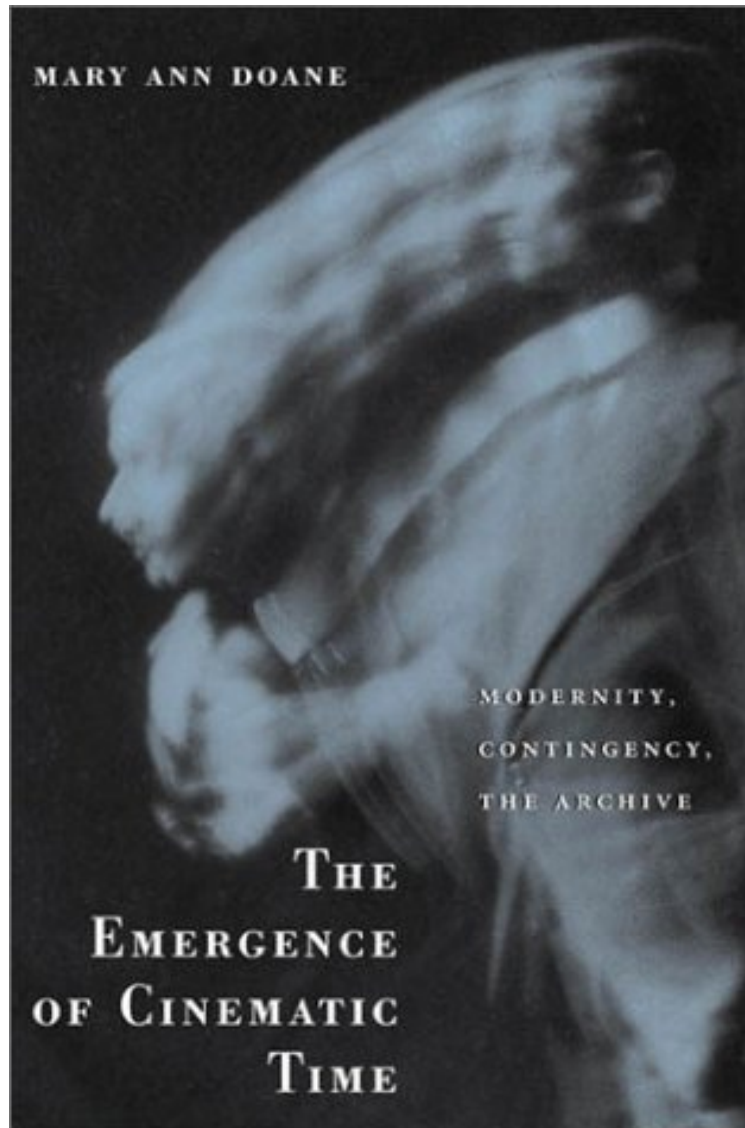


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The Emergence of Cinematic Time: Modernity, Contingency, the Archive

Mary Ann Doane

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Mary Ann Doane : The Emergence of Cinematic Time: Modernity, Contingency, the Archive before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Emergence of Cinematic Time: Modernity, Contingency, the Archive:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A really amazing thought provoking bookBy Old and in the wayThis is not an easy book. I've read it twice, and had a headache from thinking so much the first time. Now, I'm not a dumb

guy, but I'm not well versed in Philosophy. I came to this book from the film side, and it was a text for a media/philosophy course. It is truly an inspired work, and brings the work of Freud, Muybridge, Edison, and Barthes into conversation with each other. It is not a fast read, and it is pretty contemplative. I'd recommend reading a section of it prior to buying it to make sure that it is what you are looking for, but chances are if you are even looking at it, you are looking for it. I'd also advise against getting a used copy, unless you can completely ignore underlining and writing in the margins, as this is a book that seems to necessitate note taking.

Hailed as the permanent record of fleeting moments, the cinema emerged at the turn of the nineteenth century as an unprecedented means of capturing time--and this at a moment when disciplines from physics to philosophy, and historical trends from industrialization to the expansion of capitalism, were transforming the very idea of time. In a work that itself captures and reconfigures the passing moments of art, history, and philosophy, Mary Ann Doane shows how the cinema, representing the singular instant of chance and ephemerality in the face of the increasing rationalization and standardization of the day, participated in the structuring of time and contingency in capitalist modernity. At this book's heart is the cinema's essential paradox: temporal continuity conveyed through "stopped time," the rapid succession of still frames or frozen images. Doane explores the role of this paradox, and of notions of the temporal indeterminacy and instability of an image, in shaping not just cinematic time but also modern ideas about continuity and discontinuity, archivability, contingency and determinism, and temporal irreversibility. A compelling meditation on the status of cinematic knowledge, her book is also an inquiry into the very heart and soul of modernity.

The Emergence of Cinematic Time is without question a significant and original contribution to the field of Film Studies. Its primary objective is to advance a scholarly argument about the "representability" of cinematic time in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. More than this, it aims to clarify the status of photography and film in discourses and disciplines concerned with temporality and contingency. And it does so precisely by focusing on fields whose relation to the cinema is not immediately self-evident, such as thermodynamics, physiology, statistics, psychoanalysis, and philosophy. Mary Ann Doane is without question one of Film Studies' finest scholars and *The Emergence of Cinematic Time* does justice to her reputation and to the highest standards of the field. (Patrice Petro, Professor of Film Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee) Mary Ann Doane has written an ambitious and highly original work, relating film studies and the understanding of the basic apparatus of cinema to a broad cultural description of temporality in the late modern (late 19th and early 20th centuries) period. This is a new and exciting contribution to intellectual discourse about modernity, time and, especially, cinema. Its original cross-disciplinary argument should attract readers from many fields and at many levels. Theory here takes on history and yields a strong new approach to questions about the role cinema plays in culture. (Tom Gunning, Professor of Art History and Film Studies at the University of Chicago) About the Author Mary Ann Doane is George Hazard Crooker University Professor of Modern Culture and Media and of English at Brown University.