



The Social Impact of the Arts An Intellectual History

Eleonora Belfiore and Oliver Bennett

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'This is a much-needed study, believe me, and a timely one as well: an examination of what lies behind the rhetoric, it fills a surprising gap in the fast-expanding literature on cultural policy.'

- Sir Christopher Frayling, Chairman, Arts Council England, and Rector, Royal College of Art

The Social Impact of the Arts offers an intellectual history of claims made over time for the value, function and impact of the arts in Western societies. With chapters on corruption, catharsis, education and 'art for art's sake', as well as number of other key themes, the book examines the many different ways in which writers have attempted to articulate the social impact of the arts. It also relates contemporary policy debates to a history of ideas, making a timely contribution to public debate about the value of the arts in modern societies.

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Towards a new approach to researching the social impacts of the arts

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ELEONORA BELFIORE is Assistant Professor of Cultural Policy Studies at the University of Warwick, UK, where she teaches postgraduate courses in British and European cultural policy. Her published work explores the function of the arts in modern societies and the relation of arts policy to other forms of social and economic policy.

OLIVER BENNETT is Professor of Cultural Policy Studies at the University of Warwick, UK. He has published extensively on the politics of culture and is the founding editor of *The International Journal of Cultural Policy*. He is the author of *Cultural Pessimism: Narratives of Decline in the Postmodern World*.



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