Synopsis

"... a valuable and important book..." â• The Yearâ€™s Work in Critical and Cultural Theory

Representing Reality is the first book to offer a conceptual overview of documentary filmmaking practice. It addresses numerous social issues and how they are presented to the viewer by means of style, rhetoric, and narrative technique. The volume poses questions about the relationship of the documentary tradition to power, the body, authority, knowledge, and our experience of history. This study advances the pioneering work of Nichols’s earlier book, Ideology and the Image."[Nichols] has written a road-block of a book which reconfigures the debate on the documentary at a new level of sophistication and complexity which can only be ignored at the risk of ignoring the whole area of documentary film." â• Sight and Sound"... the most important book on documentary film yet published." â• Canadian Journal of Film Studies

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

the book has a lot of useful insights and info about doc. it is harder than the Barnouw book because it is less chatty but it is also rich in food for thought. It takes up things like ethics and documentary style, how different kinds of documentary are similar and different, and how the human body is a really important topic in documentary, pornography and anthropology.

Representing Reality theorizes documentary in all-round perspectives. Among others, I think this book is important especially in that it raises the question of reality per se. Documentary has always been marginal not only in discourse but also in cinema industry, under the poor understanding of
I think Nichols's notion of "reflexivity" is a key concept itself in understanding documentary, which also provides a good alternative reading regarding what is documentary or not. I think this book will give you a great deal of food for thought, when you have ever contemplated what is real and when we become to question about what we are seeing, not only in films but also in real life.

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