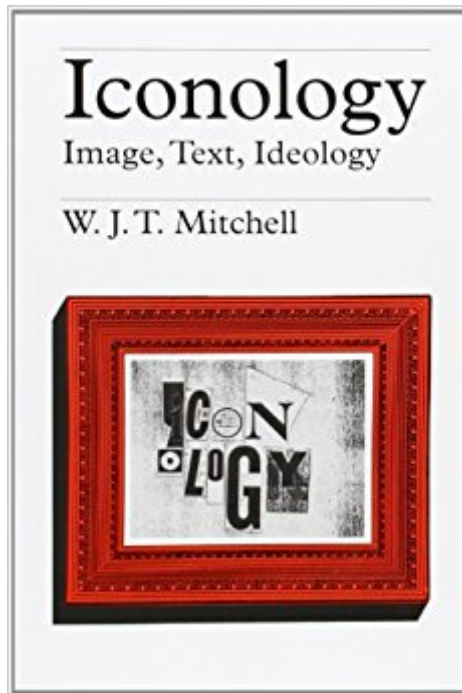




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# Iconology: Image, Text, Ideology



## Synopsis

"[Mitchell] undertakes to explore the nature of images by comparing them with words, or, more precisely, by looking at them from the viewpoint of verbal language. . . . The most lucid exposition of the subject I have ever read." —â•Rudolf Arnheim, Times Literary Supplement

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a book about the things people say about images. It is not primarily concerned with specific pictures and the things people say about them, but rather with the way we talk about the idea of imagery, and all its related notions of picturing, imagining, perceiving, likening, and imitating. It is a book about images, therefore, that has no illustrations except for a few schematic diagrams, a book about vision written as if by a blind author for a blind reader. If it contains any insight into real, material pictures, it is the sort that might come to a blind listener, overhearing the conversation the sighted speakers talking about images. My hypothesis is that such a listener might see patterns in these conversations that would be invisible to the sighted participant.

W. J. T. Mitchell is the Gaylord Donnelley Distinguished Service Professor of English and Art History at the University of Chicago and editor of Critical Inquiry.

very good

Mitchell brings a kind of consensus approach within literary criticism to bear on the criticism of visual imagery; the criticism of an image as if it were a text. A lot of this has been done, without any discipline or care for consistency or clarity, by an army of post-structuralist French critics, with uneven results. Not that Agamben, Derrida and so on aren't quite worth reading, but I'd guess that reading them would be a lot more rewarding for someone who had read this little book first.

The introduction says "This is a book about the things people say about images". As a person who buys a lot of instructional books which I hope are insightful and succinct I found this overwritten. Someone liking miles of wordy literary type criticism might find it appealing.

Complexity in its essence. Recommend.

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