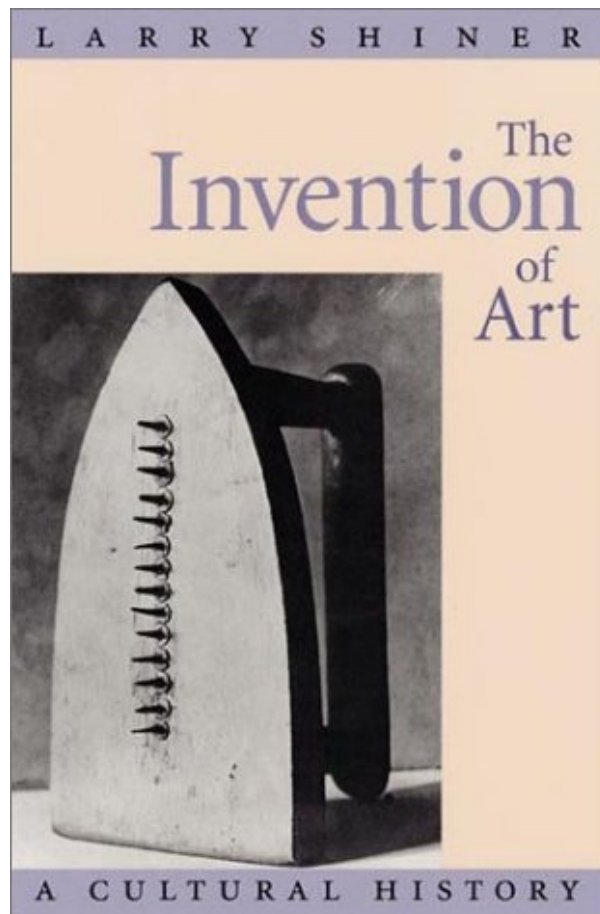


THE INVENTION OF ART: A CULTURAL HISTORY BY LARRY SHINER

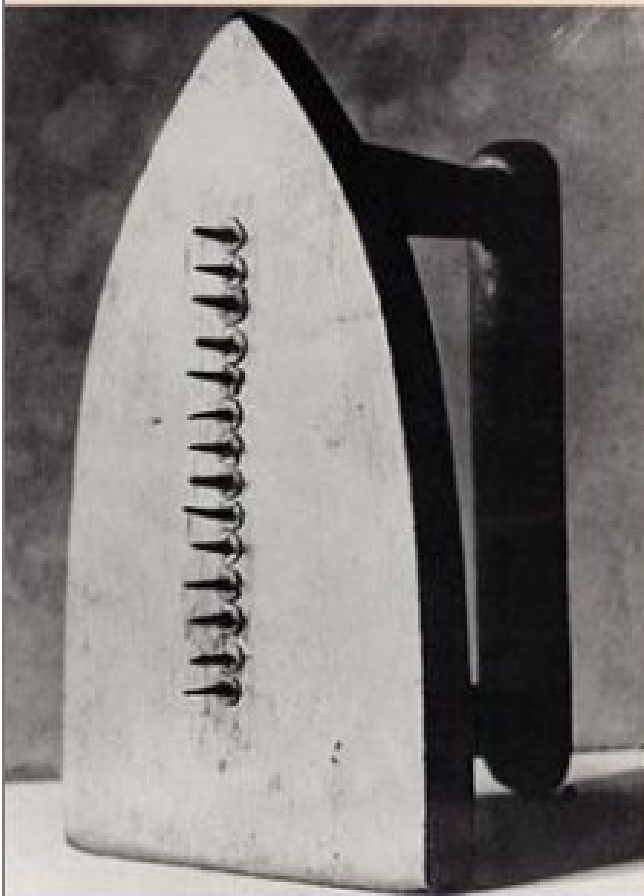


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From Publishers Weekly

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The idea of fine art was inextricably linked to the development of new market economies and the rise of the

middle classes, both constituting enormous changes in Western culture. During this period, the art museum, a place where art could be viewed, digested, and contemplated, first came into being. Meanwhile, critics became less interested in how art and literature functioned, and more fascinated with art's aesthetic worth. At the same time, the performance of classical music shifted from places of worship and political ceremonies to more secular and commercial venues where it could be listened to silently. And accompanying these institutional changes was the dissolution of the patronage system for producing art and the advent of a new market system supported by consumers.

The *Invention of Art* traces the rich tradition of opposition to these institutions. Shiner looks at works by thinkers as varied as Hogarth, Rousseau, Wollstonecraft, Emerson, Marx, Dewey, and Benjamin. Ultimately, he shows how the modern system maintains its dominance through the assimilation of artists and musicians who resist it, and the distinctions it draws between artists and artisans, and high art and the crafts.

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"*The Invention of Art* is enjoyable to read and provides a welcome addition to the history and philosophy of art."--Terrie L. Wilson, *Art Documentation*

"A lucid book . . . it should be a must-read for anyone active in the arts."--Marc Spiegler, *Chicago Tribune Books*

- Sales Rank: #849026 in Books
- Published on: 2001-09-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 1.05" h x 6.60" w x 8.88" l, 1.41 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 352 pages

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