

Ways of Sensing

**Understanding the senses in
society**

**David Howes and
Constance Classen**



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David Howes, Constance Classen



Ways Of Sensing Understanding The Senses In Society:

Ways of Sensing David Howes, Constance Classen, 2013-10-30 *Ways of Sensing* is a stimulating exploration of the cultural historical and political dimensions of the world of the senses. The book spans a wide range of settings and makes comparisons between different cultures and epochs revealing the power and diversity of sensory expressions across time and space. The chapters reflect on topics such as the tactile appeal of medieval art, the healing power of Navajo sand paintings, the aesthetic blight of the modern hospital, the role of the senses in the courtroom, and the branding of sensations in the marketplace. Howes and Classen consider how political issues such as nationalism, gender equality, and the treatment of minority groups are shaped by sensory practices and metaphors. They also reveal how the phenomenon of synaesthesia or mingling of the senses can be seen as not simply a neurological condition but a vital cultural mode of creating social and cosmic interconnections. Written by leading scholars in the field, *Ways of Sensing* provides readers with a valuable and engaging introduction to the life of the senses in society.

Ways of Sensing David Howes, Constance Classen, 2014 *Ways of Sensing* is a stimulating exploration of the cultural historical and political dimensions of the world of the senses. The book spans a wide range of settings and makes comparisons between different cultures and epochs revealing the power and diversity of sensory expressions across time and space. The chapters reflect on topics such as the tactile appeal of medieval art, the healing power of Navajo sand paintings, the aesthetic blight of the modern hospital, the role of the senses in the courtroom, and the branding of sensations in the marketplace. Howes and Classen consider how political issues such as nationalism, gender equality, and the treatment of minority groups are shaped by sensory practices and metaphors. They also reveal how the phenomenon of synaesthesia or mingling of the senses can be seen as not simply a neurological condition but a vital cultural mode of creating social and cosmic interconnections. Written by leading scholars in the field, *Ways of Sensing* provides readers with a valuable and engaging introduction to the life of the senses in society.

The Routledge History of the Senses Andrew Kettler, Will Tullett, 2025-06-26 *The Routledge History of the Senses* presents readers with an overview of the field. As well as pointing to directions for the future of the discipline, it illustrates the extent to which the subject offers a considerable space for the exploration of diverse historical topics through the lens of sensory experience. The handbook brings together essays and case studies from some of the leading academics on the history of the senses. Together they not only chart topics and arguments in existing scholarship but introduce fresh methodologies for future analyses. Specifically, the chapters collectively show that the senses of the historical body often portray the intensity of the invasion of capital upon the functions of the mind throughout global history. As a global history, this work arrives at a time when many sensory historians are looking for a touchstone for moving beyond the often heavily Western frameworks that dominate the existing literature on the historical senses. Not only will this book appeal to students and scholars of the history of senses, visual studies, art history, food studies, and many of the social sciences, but individual chapters also offer useful reading material for a wide

range of history modules and contemporary topics

The Routledge Handbook of the Senses in the Ancient Near

East Kiersten Neumann, Allison Thomason, 2021-09-30 This Handbook is a state of the field volume containing diverse approaches to sensory experience bringing to life in an innovative remarkably vivid and visceral way the lives of past humans through contributions that cover the chronological and geographical expanse of the ancient Near East It comprises thirty two chapters written by leading international contributors that look at the ways in which humans through their senses experienced their lives and the world around them in the ancient Near East with coverage of Anatolia Egypt the Levant Mesopotamia Syria and Persia from the Neolithic through the Roman period It is organised into six parts related to sensory contexts Practice production and taskscape Dress and the body Ritualised practice and ceremonial spaces Death and burial Science medicine and aesthetics and Languages and semantic fields In addition to exploring what makes each sensory context unique this organisation facilitates cross cultural and cross chronological as well as cross sensory and multisensory comparisons and discussions of sensory experiences in the ancient world In so doing the volume also enables considerations of senses beyond the five sense model of Western philosophy sight hearing touch taste and smell including proprioception and interoception and the phenomena of synaesthesia and kinaesthesia The Routledge Handbook of the Senses in the Ancient Near East provides scholars and students within the field of ancient Near Eastern studies new perspectives on and conceptions of familiar spaces places and practices as well as material culture and texts It also allows scholars and students from adjacent fields such as Classics and Biblical Studies to engage with this material and is a must read for any scholar or student interested in or already engaged with the field of sensory studies in any period

The Routledge Handbook of Sensory Archaeology Robin Skeates, Jo Day, 2019-10-28 Edited by two pioneers in the field of sensory archaeology this Handbook comprises a key point of reference for the ever expanding field of sensory archaeology one that surpasses previous books in this field both in scope and critical intent This Handbook provides an extensive set of specially commissioned chapters each of which summarizes and critically reflects on progress made in this dynamic field during the early years of the twenty first century The authors identify and discuss the key current concepts and debates of sensory archaeology providing overviews and commentaries on its methods and its place in interdisciplinary sensual culture studies Through a set of thematic studies they explore diverse sensorial practices contexts and materials and offer a selection of archaeological case studies from different parts of the world In the light of this the research methods now being brought into the service of sensory archaeology are re examined Of interest to scholars students and others with an interest in archaeology around the world this book will be invaluable to archaeologists and is also of relevance to scholars working in disciplines contributing to sensory studies aesthetics anthropology architecture art history communication studies history including history of science geography literary and cultural studies material culture studies museology philosophy psychology and sociology

The Smells and Senses of Antiquity in the Modern Imagination Adeline Grand-Clément, Charlotte Ribeyrol, 2021-12-16 This

volume tackles the role of smell under explored in relation to the other senses in the modern rejection reappraisal and idealisation of antiquity Among the senses olfaction in particular has often been overlooked in classical reception studies due to its evanescent nature which makes this sense difficult to apprehend in its past instantiations And yet the smells associated with a given figure or social group convey a rich imagery which in turn connotes specific values perfumes scents and foul odours both reflect and mould the ways in which a society thinks or acts Smells also help to distinguish between male and female citizens and strangers and play an important role during rituals The Smells and Senses of Antiquity in the Modern Imagination focuses on the representation of ancient smells both enticing and repugnant in the visual and performative arts from the late 18th century up to the 21st century The individual contributions explore painting sculpture literature and film but also theatrical performance museum exhibitions advertising television series historical reenactment and graphic novels which have all played a part in reshaping modern audiences perceptions and experiences of the antique **The Routledge International Handbook of Sensory Ethnography** Phillip Vannini, 2023-11-28 The Routledge International Handbook of Sensory Ethnography reviews and expands the field and scope of sensory ethnography by fostering new links among sensory affective more than human non representational and multimodal sensory research traditions and composition styles From writing and film to performance and sonic documentation the handbook reimagines the boundaries of sensory ethnography and posits new possibilities for scholarship conducted through the senses and for the senses Sensory ethnography is a transdisciplinary research methodology focused on the significance of all the senses in perceiving creating and conveying meaning Drawing from a wide variety of strategies that involve the senses as a means of inquiry objects of study and forms of expression sensory ethnography has played a fundamental role in the contemporary evolution of ethnography writ large as a reflexive embodied situated and multimodal form of scholarship The handbook dwells on subjects like the genealogy of sensory ethnography the implications of race in ethnographic inquiry opening up ethnographic practice to simulate the future using participatory sensory ethnography for disability studies the untapped potential of digital touch and much more This is the most definitive reference text available on the market and is intended for advanced undergraduates graduate students and researchers in anthropology sociology and the social sciences and will serve as a state of the art resource for sensory ethnographers worldwide *Learning to Hear* Sarah Maslen, 2025-07-08 As we live our lives hearing seems to be something that we simply have not something that we do Yet in a wide variety of occupations and activities people must develop their hearing skills to achieve proficiency How do people learn to hear This innovative book investigates strategies and techniques for honing hearing in medicine music outdoor adventuring and Morse code operation Sarah Maslen uncovers tricks of the trade and forms of communal assistance for crafting these largely unconscious practices She shows that hearing is far more complex than is often assumed and that it depends on competencies that extend beyond the ear In so doing Maslen explodes myths of genius and natural talent and the idea that certain skills are the province of particular kinds of

people Overcoming the distance between insiders and outsiders requires access to the collective support that cultivates seemingly natural sense abilities Learning to Hear examines vivid and varied cases such as how doctors listen for a heart murmur how musicians build the skills to play along with others how adventurers sense dangers like melting ice or falling rocks while climbing and how telegraph operators develop a feel for Morse code A deeply original exploration of the cultivation of hearing this book offers a new approach to embodied experience **Taste and Knowledge in Early Modern England** Elizabeth L. Swann,2020-10-15 Pioneering investigation into relationship between physical sense of taste and taste as a term denoting judgement in early modern England **Beneath the Killing Fields** Matthew Leonard,2017-02-19 Beneath the Killing Fields of the Western Front still lies a hidden landscape of industrialised conflict virtually untouched since 1918 This subterranean world is an ambiguous environment filled with material culture that that objectifies the scope and depth of human interaction with the diverse conflict landscapes of modern war Covering the military reasoning for taking the war underground as well as exploring the way that human beings interacted with these extraordinary alien environments this book provides a more all encompassing overview of the Western Front The underground war was intrinsic to trench warfare and involved far more than simply trying to destroy the enemys trenches from below It also served as a home to thousands of men protecting them from the metallic landscapes of the surface With the aid of cutting edge fieldwork conducted by the author in these subterranean locales this book combines military history archaeology and anthropology together with primary data and unique imagery of British French German and American underground defences in order to explore the realities of subterranean warfare on the Western Front and the effects on the human body and mind that living and fighting underground inevitably entailed

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Ways Of Sensing Understanding The Senses In Society Introduction

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