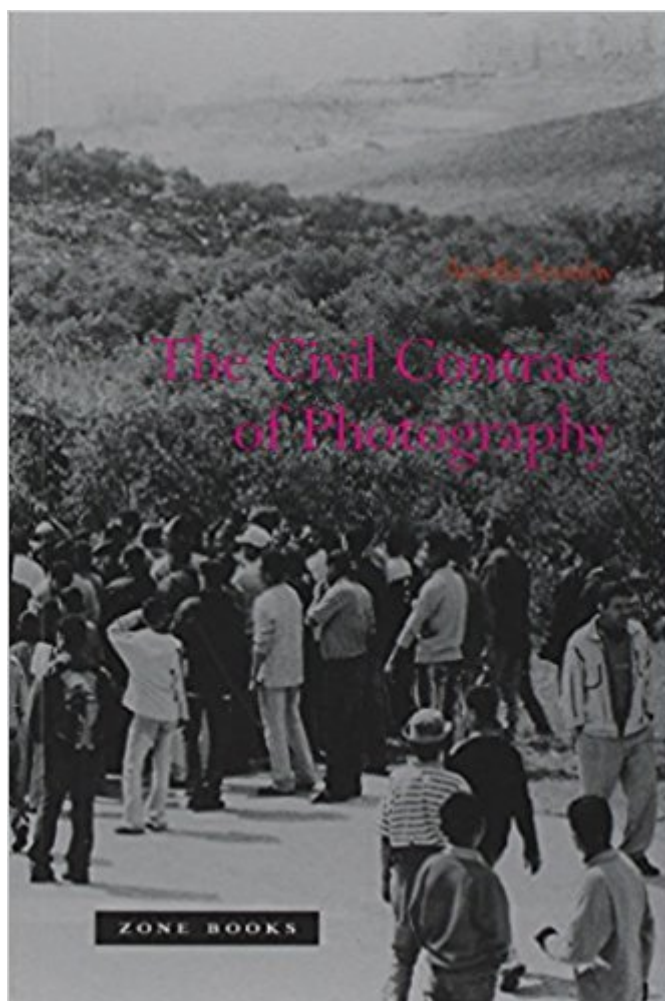


The book was found

The Civil Contract Of Photography



Synopsis

In this compelling work, Ariella Azoulay reconsiders the political and ethical status of photography. Describing the power relations that sustain and make possible photographic meanings, Azoulay argues that anyone -- even a stateless person -- who addresses others through photographs or is addressed by photographs can become a member of the citizenry of photography. The civil contract of photography enables anyone to pursue political agency and resistance through photography. Photography, Azoulay insists, cannot be understood separately from the many catastrophes of recent history. The crucial arguments of her book concern two groups with flawed or nonexistent citizenship: the Palestinian noncitizens of Israel and women in Western societies. Azoulay analyzes Israeli press photographs of violent episodes in the Occupied Territories, and interprets various photographs of women -- from famous images by stop-motion photographer Eadweard Muybridge to photographs from Abu Ghraib prison. Azoulay asks this question: under what legal, political, or cultural conditions does it become possible to see and to show disaster that befalls those who can claim only incomplete or nonexistent citizenship? Drawing on such key texts in the history of modern citizenship as the Declaration of the Rights of Man together with relevant work by Giorgio Agamben, Jean-François Lyotard, Susan Sontag, and Roland Barthes, Azoulay explores the visual field of catastrophe, injustice, and suffering in our time. Her book is essential reading for anyone seeking to understand the disasters of recent history -- and the consequences of how these events and their victims have been represented.

Book Information

Series: The Civil Contract of Photography

Paperback: 592 pages

Publisher: Zone Books (November 16, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1890951897

ISBN-13: 978-1890951894

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #269,370 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #77 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Photography & Video > Criticism & Essays #89 in Books > Arts & Photography >

Photography & Video > Photojournalism & Essays > Photojournalism #333 in Books > Arts &

Customer Reviews

"Ariella Azoulay makes a simple and profound claim. Every photograph bears the traces of the encounter between the photographer and the photographed, and neither party can ultimately control that inscription nor determine what happens to those traces. The photograph, she tells us, fixes nothing and belongs to no one. This untethering of photography from responsibility, at least in its traditional sense, allows her to approach the ethics and politics specific to photography in a completely new way. Even or especially when it is a photograph of a crime or an injustice, a photograph is more than evidence. It imposes another sort of obligation on us, to address and readdress it in a way that challenges what it shows of our life together. Azoulay's breathtaking book finally demands nothing less of us than to reimagine how, in the age of the photograph, we might become citizens again."--- Thomas Keenan, Human Rights Program, Bard College (Thomas Keenan)"Ariella Azoulay makes a simple and profound claim. Every photograph bears the traces of the encounter between the photographer and the photographed, and neither party can ultimately control that inscription nor determine what happens to those traces. The photograph, she tells us, fixes nothing and belongs to no one. This untethering of photography from responsibility, at least in its traditional sense, allows her to approach the ethics and politics specific to photography in a completely new way. Even or especially when it is a photograph of a crime or an injustice, a photograph is more than evidence. It imposes another sort of obligation on us, to address and readdress it in a way that challenges what it shows of our life together. Azoulay's breathtaking book finally demands nothing less of us than to reimagine how, in the age of the photograph, we might become citizens again." Thomas Keenan , Human Rights Program, Bard College "... Azoulay's central themes -- state violence, violations of human rights, and the nature and potential of photographic witness -- are as relevant to our own political circumstances as they are to hers." Abigail Solomon-Godeau *Art in America*"... this is a significant, deeply moral book that should undercut complacent thinking. Azoulay's renewal of cultural attention to the state and her view of photography that requires us to dispute prevailing interpretations of evidence must surely be welcomed as we are, once again, thrown headlong back to reality." Steve Edwards *Times Higher Education*

Ariella Azoulay teaches visual culture and contemporary philosophy at the Program for Culture and Interpretation, Bar Ilan University. She is the author of *Once Upon A Time: Photography Following*

Walter Benjamin and Death's Showcase: The Power of Image in Contemporary Democracy (MIT Press, 2001).

This book is part of a shift away from the idea of compassion fatigue produced by seeing endless images of conflict. The author in particular criticises the approach of Susan Sontag in *On Photography* and *Regarding the Pain of Others*. The idea that photographs should engage us in what she calls a civil contract of photography means that viewers are bound to consider the plight of others. This might apply to the situations she addresses--images of Palestinian maltreatment in Israel--but can it be generalised to other images? The central argument is very provocative and makes you think again about the role and effects of photography in mass media and in art contexts. The book is rather long winded, and not very well focused. Some of the chapters should have been cut or combined to create a punchier work. Susie Lindfield's *The Cruel Radiance of Photography* is a much better argued critique of Sontag's view of photography.

This is a key book on rethinking the role of photography--on how we are responsible for what we witness, even through photographs, and how that witness can lead to re-imagination and reformations of the civic space. It is a massive book, but highly readable. I am working my way through it.

"The Civil Contract of Photography" is on the ROROTOKO list of cutting-edge intellectual nonfiction. Professor Azoulay's book interview ran here as a cover feature on January 23, 2009.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Photography: DSLR Photography Secrets and Tips to Taking Beautiful Digital Pictures (Photography, DSLR, cameras, digital photography, digital pictures, portrait photography, landscape photography) Construction Contract Dispute and Claim Handbook, Introduction, and Division 01: A Primer on the Nature of Construction Contract Disputes for Attorneys, ... (Construction Contract Dispute Handbook) Photography Business: Sell That Photo!: 10 Simple Ways To Make Big Bucks Selling Your Photography Online (how to sell photography, freelance photography, ... to start on online photography business) Photography: Complete Guide to Taking Stunning, Beautiful Digital Pictures (photography, stunning digital, great pictures, digital photography, portrait ... landscape photography, good pictures) Photography: DSLR Photography Made Easy: Simple Tips on How You Can Get Visually Stunning Images Using Your DSLR (Photography, Digital Photography, Creativity, ... Digital, Portrait, Landscape, Photoshop) Photography Business: 4 Manuscripts -

Adventure Sports Photography, Portrait Parties, Music Business Photography, Real Estate Photography The Magic Circle....and More: A Practical Concept for Understanding Government Contract Cost Accounting Applied in the Contract Management Process How to get every Contract Calculation question right on the PMP® Exam: 50+ PMP® Exam Prep Sample Questions and Solutions on Contract Calculations ... Simplified Series of mini-e-books) (Volume 2) How to get every Contract Calculation question right on the PMP® Exam: 50+ PMP® Exam Prep Sample Questions and Solutions on Contract Calculations (PMP® ... Simplified Series of mini-e-books Book 2) The Contract Series: The Contract; Hit & Miss; Change Up (Jeter Publishing) How to Plan, Contract, and Build Your Own Home, Fifth Edition: Green Edition (How to Plan, Contract & Build Your Own Home) The Civil Contract of Photography Civil War: American Civil War in 50 Events: From the Very Beginning to the Fall of the Confederate States (War Books, Civil War History, Civil War Books) (History in 50 Events Series Book 13) Photography: Portrait Photography: 9 Tips Your Camera Manual Never Told You About Portrait Photography DSLR Photography for Beginners: Take 10 Times Better Pictures in 48 Hours or Less! Best Way to Learn Digital Photography, Master Your DSLR Camera & Improve Your Digital SLR Photography Skills Stock Photography for Beginners: How to Make Money Online with Microstock Photography & Build Passive Income with Your Photography Business Photography: Photography Lighting: Top 10 Must-Know Photography Lighting Facts to Shoot Like a Pro in Your Home Studio Photography: Landscape Photography: 10 Essential Tips to Take Your Landscape Photography to The Next Level Photography Hacks: The Complete Extensive Guide on How to Become a Master Photographer in 7 Days or Less: Photography Hacks and 7 Day Photography Photography: Darkroom Photography: The Complete Guide to Mastering the Basics of Darkroom Photography

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)