

Read.  
Talk.  
Think.

THINGS THAT MAKE YOU SAY O.H.M.

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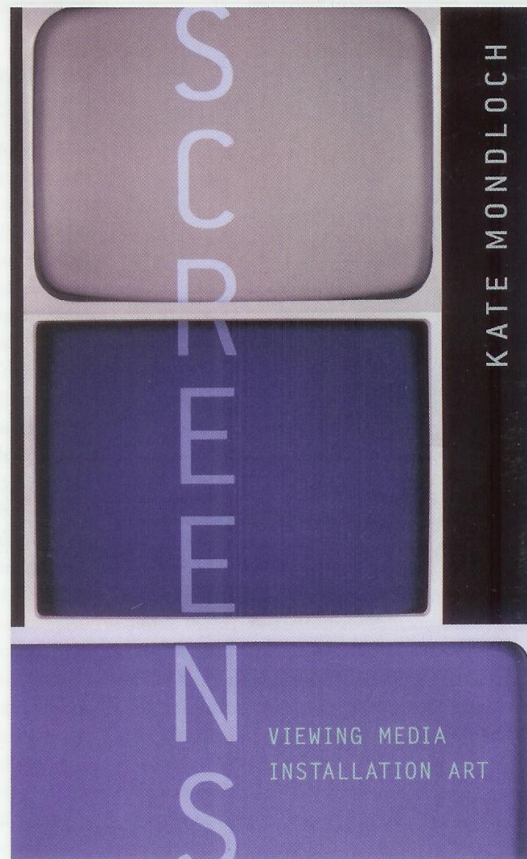
A year ago I read Virginia Postrel's *Substance of Style: How the Rise of Aesthetic Value is Remaking Culture, Commerce and Consciousness* and what I mostly got from it was the idea that it is misleading to think things are either beautiful or useful, that something can be smart and pretty. But while I enjoyed reading it, I missed the sort of thoughtfulness you put into this [posting]—that sometimes design is tyrannical, sometimes it deceives, that sometimes it becomes a projection that interferes with authenticity. I like your dividing line, because it seems essential to the critical examination of our lives and culture to ask, “How is the design here manipulating me?” Design can make our lives easier: I think of how many websites have great content that I cannot stick around to read, but when there is style without substance, when I am persuaded to behave in a way I wouldn't otherwise, to buy something I don't need, then it seems like a perversion of the value design has.

**MARA COLLINS** comment about Harriet Fasenfest's Oregon Humanities blog posting, “The Intentions of Design,” at [oregonhumanities.org](http://oregonhumanities.org)

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 “Our time together has been the most profound, liberating and empowering experience of my life. With the exception of becoming a Father, nothing has had a more deeply persuasive effect upon my life and thoughts than this HUMANITY IN PERSPECTIVE experience that I have shared with you.”

“By rejecting the growing tendency toward the insulation and isolation of individuals and families from their surroundings and by engaging, sharing, teaching, and learning from one another, we are able to experience a wonderful phenomenon possible in the human experience; a broadening of our individual horizons, while simultaneously experiencing the world brought closer to us.”

**SAM NERVEZA**, *Humanity in Perspective* class of 2010 graduation speaker, in April 2010



**SCREENS: VIEWING MEDIA INSTALLATION ART** by Kate Mondloch, assistant professor of art history at the University of Oregon. Published by University of Minnesota Press, 2010.

In an interview on the University of Minnesota Press's blog, Mondloch describes her hope for readers of her book:

“My hope is that the book will encourage readers to think more deeply about the ways we interact with media screens, both in our everyday lives and in certain forms of contemporary art. How many screens are surrounding you right now? I'm typing this on my laptop, which is hooked up to an external monitor, and I'm armed with my cell phone and iPod within arm's reach. Blog readers will undoubtedly find this interview through yet a similar series of screen-based interfaces. When we go to contemporary art museums we find ourselves surrounded by even more screens. I'm fascinated about the implications of this—how do we begin to make sense of the world in what one might call our ‘society of the screen’? For me, screen-based installation artworks offer a fascinating perspective on this issue.”