Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices

The concept of representation is of crucial importance in all academic fields in which cultural objects are studied. Films, buildings, but also institutes like museums, are pervaded by (explicit or implicit) ideologies and meanings. The analysis of representation enables us to think about how texts, images, and symbols work to create and sustain cultural categories and identities. Representation is cultural research that examines the interaction between the producer of a cultural artifact and the reader or viewer. It is the study of how meanings are produced and how they are perceived by different social groups. Representation is cultural research that examines the interaction between the producer of a cultural artifact and the reader or viewer. It is the study of how meanings are produced and how they are perceived by different social groups.

The broad-ranging text offers a comprehensive outline of how visual images, language and discourse work as `systems of representation` that are used to construct and maintain cultural identities. It examines the role of representation in the construction of national identity and culture. It also discusses the significance of museums and other cultural institutions in the production of cultural identities and meanings.

The second edition of Representation should enable it to speak to new generations of students and to continue to serve as an introductory guide and a fine reference to cultural producers, with expanded accounts of major theories of representation and identity. Whether student, teacher or simply curious intellect, will be glad for the time spent reading this book.

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