

Julian Spalding

# THE ECLIPSE OF ART

Tackling the Crisis in Art Today



Prestel

Munich · Berlin · London · New York

© for text and illustrations by Julian Spalding  
© for design and layout by Prestel Verlag, Munich Berlin London  
New York, 2003  
© for Marcel Duchamp, *Fountain* © Succession Marcel Duchamp/VG  
Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2003.  
© for Josef Albers, paper constructions © VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2003

The right of Julian Spalding to be identified as author of this work has been asserted in  
accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

Prestel-Verlag  
Königinstr. 9  
D-80539 Munich  
Tel.: (89) 38-17-09-0  
Fax.: (89) 38-17-09-35  
[www.prestel.de](http://www.prestel.de)

Prestel Publishing Ltd.  
4 Bloomsbury Place  
London  
WC1A 2QA  
Tel.: (020) 7323 5004  
Fax.: (020) 7636 8004

Prestel Publishing  
175 Fifth Avenue, Suite 402  
New York  
NY 10010  
Tel.: (212) 995 2720  
Fax.: (212) 995 2733  
[www.prestel.com](http://www.prestel.com)

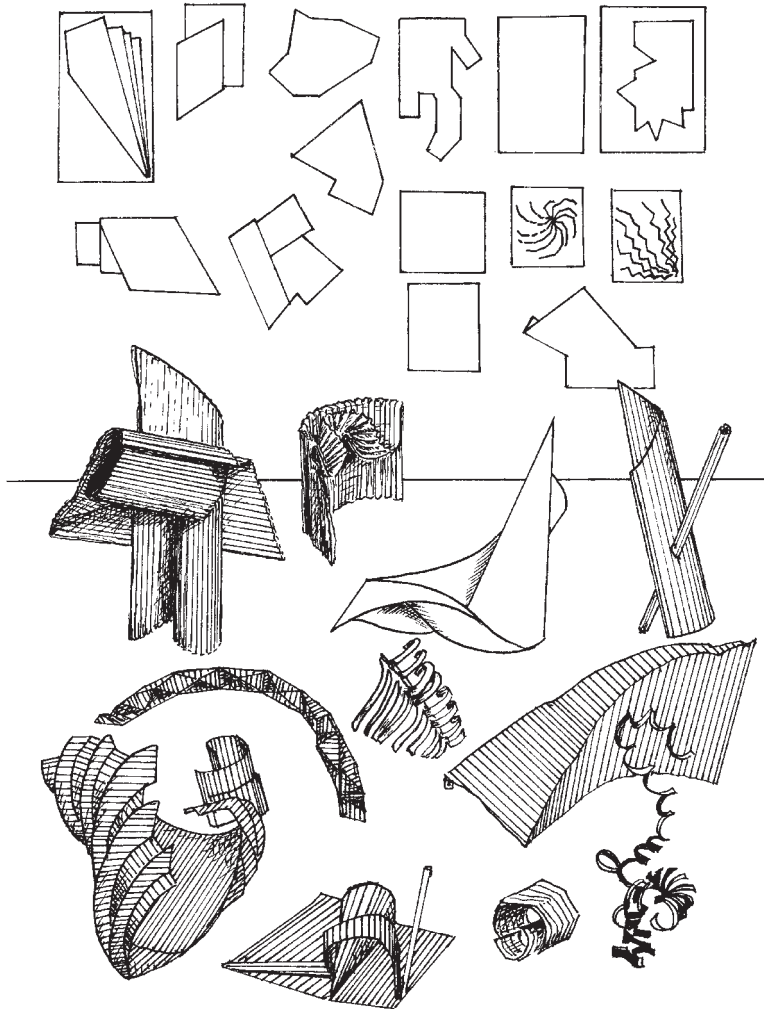
Library of Congress Control Number: 2002116866

Prestel books are available worldwide. Please contact your nearest bookseller or any of  
the above addresses for information concerning your local distributor.

Editorial direction: Philippa Hurd  
Typesetting and Origination: Saffron Page Ltd., Norwich, Norfolk  
Printing and binding: Graspò, Zlín

Printed in the Czech Republic

ISBN: 3-7913-2881-6



Paper construction exercises in the preliminary course run by Josef Albers at the Bauhaus, 1928–29. In 1928 Albers wrote: ‘We are going to experiment...we are going to focus on beauty as skilfulness. How we apply this depends on the material we are working with’.

- Hobsbawm, Eric. *Behind the Times, the Decline and Fall of the Twentieth-Century Avant-Gardes*, London, Thames and Hudson, 1998.
- Hopkins, David. *After Modern Art 1945–2000*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2000.
- Hughes, Robert. *The Shock of the New. Art and the Century of Change*, London, BBC, 1980 (2nd edn., 1991).
- Hummelen, Ijsbrand Hummelen and Dione Sille. *Modern Art: Who Cares?*, Amsterdam, Foundation for Conservation of Modern Art and the Netherlands Institute for Cultural Heritage, 1999.
- Joachimides, Christos M., with Norman Rosenthal, Wieland Schmied, Georg Bussmann et al. *German Art in the Twentieth Century, Painting and Sculpture 1905–1985*, London and Munich, Prestel/Royal Academy, 1985.
- Kent, Sarah, et al. *Shark Infested Waters – the Saatchi Collection of British Art in the 1990s*. London, Zwemmer, 1994.
- Kent, Sarah, et al. *Young British Art: the Saatchi Decade*, London, Booth Clibborn Editions, 1999.
- Kindersley, Lida Lopes Cardozo and Martin Gayford. *Apprentice*, Cambridge, The Cardozo Kindersley Workshop, 2003.
- Kuspit, Donald. B. *The Dialect of Decadence, Between Advance and Decline in Art*, Stux Press, 1993 (repr. New York, Allworth Press, 2000).
- Levin, Gail. *Edward Hopper – an Intimate Biography*, Berkeley and Los Angeles, University of California Press, 1995.
- Murphy, Bernice et al. *Pictura Britannica, Art from Britain*, Sydney, Museum of Contemporary Art, 1997.
- Ott, Robert and Al Hurwitz (eds.). *Art in Education: An International Perspective*, Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania State University Press, 1984.
- Price, Dick. *The New Neurotic Realism*, London, Saatchi Gallery, 1998.
- Read, Herbert. *Art and Society*, London and Toronto, William Heinemann, 1937.
- Read, Herbert. *Education through Art*, London, Faber and Faber, 1943.
- Reckitt, Helena and Peggy Phelan. *Art and Feminism*, London, Phaidon Press, 2001.
- von Schaewen, Deidi and John Maizels. *Fantasy Worlds*, Cologne, Taschen, 1999.

- Conception of a Conceptual Gallery 56  
 Constable, John 105  
 Cornell, Joseph 112  
 Cotman, John Sell 114  
 Courbet, Gustave 30, 62–63  
 Cragg, Tony 108  
 Cubism 17, 57, 63  
 Currie, Ken 102
- Dada 18  
 Dalí, Salvador 15  
 Danto, Arthur C. 82  
 Darwin, Charles 55, 72  
 Davenport, Ian 108  
 Davie, Alan 102  
 Davison, Francis 114  
 de Kooning, Willem 67  
 Degas, Edgar 104  
     *Combing the Hair* 95  
 Degenerate Art (exhibition) 7, 17–18, 19,  
     59, 80  
 Delaunay, Robert 57  
 Dior, Christian 55  
 drip technique 9, 22–23  
 Dubuffet, Jean 50  
 Duccio 58  
 Duchamp, Marcel 68–71, 98  
     *Etant donné*s 92  
     *Fountain* 68, 69–70  
     *Nude Descending a Staircase* 69  
     *Paysage fantif* 33, 37  
 Dufy, Raoul 8
- Edinburgh, 369 Gallery 103  
 Emin, Tracey 39, 75, 76  
*Entartete Kunst* (Degenerate Art)  
     (exhibition) 7, 17–18, 19, 59, 80  
 Existentialism 64  
 Expressionism 17, 18
- Fascism 18  
 Fauvism 63  
 feminism 33–34  
*Le Figaro* 60–62  
 Fischl, Eric 64  
 Flavin, Dan 36  
 Fosca, François 20  
 found objects 39, 68, 98, 101, 110
- France 52–53  
 Freeland, Cynthia A. 82  
*Freeze* (exhibition) 87, 88  
 French Revolution 62  
 Freud, Lucian 42, 104, 106  
 Freud, Sigmund 33  
 Frost, David 76  
 fugitive materials 36–38  
 Fuller, Peter 71–72, 82, 90  
     *Images of God: the Consolation of Lost  
     Illusions* 72  
 Futurism 18, 57
- Galerie EIGEN + ART, Berlin 77  
 Gandhi, M.K. (Mahatma) 72  
 Gascoyne, David 73  
*Gateshead Post* 109  
 Gauguin, Paul 61  
 Gentileschi, Artemisia 33  
*German Art in the Twentieth Century - Painting  
 and Sculpture 1905–1985* (catalogue) 75  
 German Democratic Republic 12–13  
 Germany 12–13, 17–19, 22  
 Gill, Eric 52  
 Gilot, Françoise, *Life with Picasso* 79  
 Gimbel's, New York 21  
 Giotto 58  
 Goebbels, Joseph 18  
 Goldsmiths' College, London 87  
 Gombrich, E. H. 76  
     *The Story of Art* 11  
 Gordon, Douglas 103  
 Gormley, Antony  
     *Angel of the North* 108–110  
     *A Case for an Angel* 109  
 Goya, Francisco de 30, 98  
     *Satan Devouring One of His Sons* 82  
 Grass, Günter 41–2  
 Green, Alan 36  
 Greenberg, Clement 22, 24, 27, 29, 63, 65  
 Greer, Germaine, *The Obstacle Race: The  
     Fortunes of Women Painters and their Work* 33  
 Grohmann, Will 41  
 Gropius, Walter 45  
 Grünewald, Matthias 84, 97  
 Guggenheim, Peggy 22, 71  
 Guggenheim, Solomon R., Museum, New  
     York 97

- Guy, Alexander, *Crib VII* 99–102
- Happenings 34
- Harvey, Marcus, *Myra* 83–84
- Hatoum, Mona, *Incommunicado* 99–102
- Hay, Andy 53
- Hayward Gallery, London 114
- Herold, Jörg 77
- Hindley, Myra 83–84
- Hirst, Damien 55, 81, 84, 85–86, 87, 88, 103, 114  
*beautiful, all round, lovely day, big toys for big boys, Frank and Lorna, when we are no longer young* 86  
*Forms without Life* 88  
*A Thousand Years* 83
- Hitchcock, Alfred 103
- Hitler, Adolf 19
- Hitler Youth 80
- Hockney, David 71, 97, 104, 106–07
- Hofer, Karl 42
- Hoffmann, Hans 33
- Hogarth, William 30
- Hopper, Edward 24–25, 28, 63–64  
*Conference at Night* 24  
*Nighthawks* 20, 24–25, 38, 64
- Houston Museum of Fine Arts 66
- Howson, Peter 102
- Hughes, Robert 46, 57, 71, 82, 90, 104, 106  
*The Shock of the New* 55, 63–64
- Hume, Gary 88
- Hungary 29
- Hunt, William Holman 72  
*The Light of the World* 72
- Incohérents* (exhibition) 70
- Industrial Revolution 43
- Italy 18
- Joachimedes, Christos M. 12–13, 75
- Johns, Jasper 34, 65, 67
- Johnson, Nerys 108, 110
- Johnson, Winnie 83
- Kandinsky, Vasily 18, 45, 50  
*Concerning the Spiritual in Art* 22
- Kemp, David 110  
*The Iron Master 96*, 110  
*Miner 96*, 110  
*The Old Transformers 96*, 110
- Kiefer, Anselm 14
- Kindersley, David 52
- Klee, Paul 18, 45, 50
- Klein, Yves 34, 65
- Koons, Jeff 8
- Kootz, Samuel 19–20
- Kossoff, Leon 104, 105
- Krasner, Lee 33
- Kuage, Matthias 111
- Kubota, Shigeiko, *Vagina Painting* 34
- Labour Party 72
- Le Corbusier (C. E. Jeanneret) 113
- Lebilebitsch, Nikolai 77
- Lehmbrück, Wilhelm 80
- Lenin, V.I. 112
- Leonardo da Vinci 11  
*Mona Lisa* 69
- Lessore, Helen 104
- Lewitt, Sol 8
- Leyster, Judith 33
- London 86
- Long, Richard 88  
*Red Slate Circle* 94
- Louis XV, King 62
- Lowry, L. S. 75, 78
- Lucas, Sarah 37, 88  
*Au Naturel* 88
- M&C Saatchi 86–87
- Maar, Dora 79
- McFadyen, Jock 102
- Mackintosh, Charles Rennie 87–88
- Magritte, René 28
- Malevich, Kasimir 26, 28  
*Black Square* 26
- Man and Wife* (exhibition) 33
- Manet, Edouard 64  
*Olympia* 62–63
- Manzoni, Piero 10
- Mapplethorpe, Robert, *Jim and Tom, Sausalito* 82
- Matisse, Henri  
 artistic status 9, 11–12, 58, 59, 97  
 and children's art 50  
 and Cubism 63

- Rembrandt van Rijn 41, 102  
 Renoir, Auguste 33–34, 61  
 Reynolds, Sir Joshua, *Discourses* 48  
 Richter, Gerhard 49  
     *An Artist's Book* 49  
     *The Daily Practice of Painting* 49  
 Riley, Bridget 23, 34–35  
     *Blaze* 4 35  
     *Punjab* 35  
 Rodin, Auguste 80  
 Rosenberg, Harold 48–9, 65  
 Rosenthal, Norman 12–13, 87  
 Rothko, Theodore 8  
 Rousseau, Henri 78  
     *Tiger in a Tropical Storm (Surprised!)* 114  
 Royal Academy, London 12–13, 13–14, 43, 55, 83, 86  
 Ruskin, John 26–27, 44, 45, 71–72  
     *Modern Painters* 72  
     *Unto This Last* 72  
 Russia 22, 26, 28, 29, 112
- Saatchi, Charles 20, 66, 83, 86–87, 88, 90  
 Saatchi Collection 67, 68  
 Saini, Nek Chand 113  
 Saint Phalle, Niki de 113  
 Samuel Kootz Gallery, New York 20  
 San Francisco Museum of Modern Art 66  
 Sandle, Michael 83  
 Schjeldahl, Peter 67, 68  
 Schnabel, Julian 9, 46, 60–61, 66, 90–91  
 Schwitters, Kurt 18  
     *Merzbau* 92  
 Science Museum, London 44  
 Scotland 102–03  
 Second World War 19, 45, 46, 57, 65, 71  
*Sensation: Young British Artists from the Saatchi Collection* (exhibition) 83, 86, 87  
 Serota, Sir Nicholas 11, 12–13, 91–92, 93  
     *Experience or Interpretation, The Dilemma of Museums of Modern Art* 92  
 Serrano, Andres, *Piss Christ* 82  
 Seurat, Georges 35  
 Sickert, Walter 104, 105  
     *VI Guggenheim International* (exhibition) 93  
 Smith, Chris, *Creative Britain* 86  
 Smith, David 112
- Socialist Realism 14, 29  
 Society of Independents Exhibition, New York 69–70  
 South Kensington Museum, London 44  
 Speer, Albert 109  
 Spencer, Stanley 106  
 spin paintings 86, 103  
 Stalin, Josef 29, 77, 112  
 Stallabrass, Julian 114  
     *High Art Lite* 82–83  
 Stein, Gertrude 91  
 Stella, Frank 67  
 Stieglitz, Alfred 70  
 stone cutting 52  
 Storr, Robert 49  
 Surrealism 57, 73  
 Sustrans 110
- Tanguy, Julien (Père) 61  
 Tarot Garden, Garaviccio 113  
 Tate Gallery, London 10–11, 12, 66, 87, 90–91, 108  
     *Patrons of New Art* 55  
 Tate Modern, London 34, 58, 67–68, 68, 78–79, 94–95, 102  
 Teh, Hock-Aun 103  
 Tibor de Nagy Gallery, New York 67  
*The Times* 87  
 Tinguely, Jean 91  
 Tisdall, Carolyn 79  
 Titian 102  
     *Venus of Urbino* 62  
 Toscani, Oliviero 84  
 Turner, J.M.W. 72  
     *Snowstorm: Steam-Boat off a Harbour Mouth* 27  
 Turner Prize 55, 76, 103  
 Twain, Mark 85  
 Tyneside 107–110
- United States of America 9, 20–22, 65, 71, 84–89, 86, 90  
     *see also* New York
- Van Gogh, Vincent 30, 41, 53, 56, 59–61, 64, 71  
     *The Night Café* 25  
     *Sunflowers* 60, 95