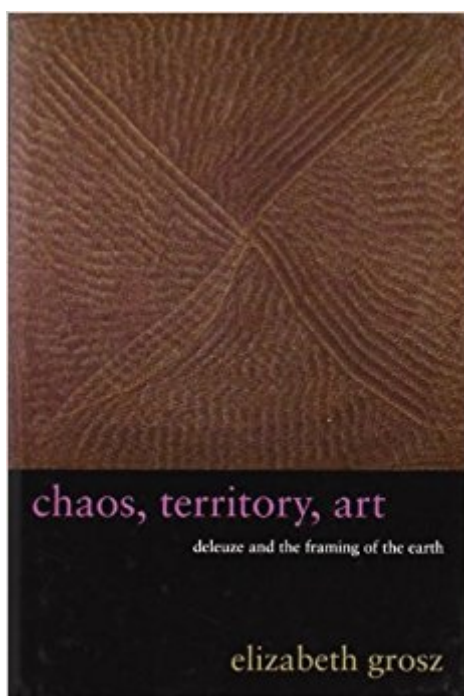


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# Chaos, Territory, Art: Deleuze And The Framing Of The Earth (The Wellek Library Lectures)



## Synopsis

Instead of treating art as a unique creation that requires reason and refined taste to appreciate, Elizabeth Grosz argues that art-especially architecture, music, and painting-is born from the disruptive forces of sexual selection. She approaches art as a form of erotic expression connecting sensory richness with primal desire, and in doing so, finds that the meaning of art comes from the intensities and sensations it inspires, not just its intention and aesthetic. By regarding our most cultured human accomplishments as the result of the excessive, nonfunctional forces of sexual attraction and seduction, Grosz encourages us to see art as a kind of bodily enhancement or mode of sensation enabling living bodies to experience and transform the universe. Art can be understood as a way for bodies to augment themselves and their capacity for perception and affection-a way to grow and evolve through sensation. Through this framework, which knits together the theories of Charles Darwin, Henri Bergson, Gilles Deleuze, Félix Guattari, and Jakob von Uexküll, we are able to grasp art's deep animal lineage. Grosz argues that art is not tied to the predictable and known but to new futures not contained in the present. Its animal affiliations ensure that art is intensely political and charged with the creation of new worlds and new forms of living. According to Grosz, art is the way in which life experiments with materiality, or nature, in order to bring about change.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This wonderful and short book... continues her recent quest of recasting Darwinian biology within a

Deleuzian and Nietzschean understanding of sexual difference. (Arun Saldanha Environment and Planning)

Elizabeth Grosz is professor of women's and gender studies at Rutgers University. She also teaches gender studies and architecture at the University of Bergen, Norway, and The University of Sydney, Australia. Grosz has been a visiting professor at the University of California, Santa Cruz, the University of California, Irvine, Johns Hopkins University, and George Washington University. Trained in continental philosophy, she has written widely on the body, sexuality, space, time, and materiality, and her publications include *The Nick of Time: Politics, Evolution, and the Untimely* and *Time Travels: Feminism, Nature, Power*.

Get it. But I do recommend the Kindle version. Although it may seem a little overpriced considering it is a short book, it's something you won't even consider upon finishing it. Footnotes work great with the most recent Kindle Paperwhite software update.

I got the Kindle version which is flawless. A great read. Grosz's attempt to define art is heroic. If you truly care about what you see, what, you listen to, what you feel, what you smell, what you taste. I mean, if you really care. Get it. But I do recommend the Kindle version. Although it may seem a little overpriced considering it is a short book, it's something you won't even consider upon finishing it. Footnotes work great with the most recent Kindle Paperwhite software update.

An outstanding foundational text, providing a wealth of entry points into feminist philosophy interlaced through art theory and the underpinning rituals necessary for the enrichment of sustainable communities of practice. Art and music are at the core of our very being and I feel that this short, however worthy resource lightens the journey in many ways.

I actually like great big swaths of this book. Some great lines. But I know there are others who would say "she's wrong" with her take. But I am skeptical of those folks too. I like this, but would say read with care for first sources!

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