

Debord, G. (1998). *Comments on the Society of the Spectacle*. London: Verso.

Guy Debord's book the 'Society of the Spectacle' (1967) is a collection of 221 short theses where he explains the idea of the spectacle which is simply his term for the everyday marketing that is all around us. He explains that the things we see every day shape our perceptions and opinions on the world which therefore affect how we interact with them and the people around us. Our relationship with objects is formed through opinion based on information from the media.

This book is an interesting criticism on consumerism and capitalist society as he points out and explains how mass media and the bombardment of images and advertisements have replaced genuine thought and opinion. Debord's text was written 58 years ago so contains outdated views but still arguably applicable within today's socio-political climate due to the prevalence of social media and the multitude of images shown.

In my practice I have been looking at how we make a spectacle out of people's deaths and tragic accidents using flowers. We put them on loved one's graves and at the site of tragic accidents making a spectacle of the deaths to show we care. In addition we display cut flowers within our homes to brighten up interior environments. This book was fascinating and made me think about and reexamine the power that we give to objects.

Dawkins, R. (2006). *The God Delusion*. London: Black Swan.

In his book 'The God Delusion' Richard Dawkins (2006) talks about arguments for and against the existence of God as well as his theories and opinions as to why people are religious. For example he theorises that if you are religious your beliefs are most likely that of your parents. He also talks about what influences people to believe in God and why certain people might be more likely to need or want something to believe in otherworldly bigger than ourselves.

I like that he writes about both arguments for and against the existence of God because he personally believes that religion is a social construct that people invented which was passed down through generations. He argues that people are deluding themselves about the existence and power of God. Dawkins has a clear bias for this subject therefore cannot write objectively about it meaning he writes much more extensively about the arguments against and why it's not real than he does about the arguments for the existence of God which is only natural. This book is an incredible insight into his thoughts theories and beliefs However it is slightly skewed, one sided and unreliable meaning that it does not provide a complete, unbiased and accurate commentary on the subject

This book is relevant to my practice because I'm really interested in what people believe in and why they do and in this book Dawkins writes extensively about his theories as to why people believe what they do.

Law, S. (2011). *Believing Bullshit*. Prometheus Books.

'Believing Bullshit' by Stephen Law (2011), put very simply is a guide of how not to get sucked into a conspiracy theory or cult. He talks about how beliefs in conspiracy theories are 'intellectual black holes' that can suck in the most powerful and intelligent people. In this book he explains about quite a lot of common beliefs and conspiracy theories and explains the strategy they use to get people to believe in it and then he explains what's wrong with it. Aiming to provide people with Intellectual armour against cult, religious and political propaganda.

I am yet to finish this book. However so far I really like how he gives a concise but thorough overview of each idea or conspiracy theory etc that he's talking about and then goes in in detail evaluating at how and why it's not real and why they've said things in the way they've said it to be as convincing as possible. I also really like that he thoroughly explained what he wanted to do with the book why he was writing it and explained how he was going to do it his method.

As I explained before I am fascinated by what people believe in why they believe it and how they believe in it and this book is all about that. This book is also really interesting because instead of being a book about to believe it's the opposite and it's about why and how not to believe in things which is fascinating to me.

Holtam, N. (2011). *The art of worship: paintings, prayers and readings for meditation*. London: National Gallery Company

'The Art of Worship' (2011) is a book written by the reverend Nicholas Holtam about all of his favourite artworks in the National Gallery in London. Some religious others not. Alongside pictures of the artworks, he has written his thoughts feelings evaluations of all the pieces as well as in some quote's poems, prayers or Bible verses.

It's an interesting insight into his mind and which pieces of art he likes and thinks are worth putting in the book and evaluating I also think it's interesting that a lot of the paintings and artworks he's chosen are religious but some are not. I like how he explains what the painting is and what he thinks it represents and talks about however because this book is just his favourite pieces and what he specifically likes about them and thinks about them and his opinions and thoughts on the works it's written completely through his lens meaning that is biased and unbalanced.

This relates to my practise because I have been looking at the power of religious art this symbolism in religious art and the power it has over people.