Interpreting Anime is a thoughtful introduction to Japanese animation for anyone eager to see why this genre has remained a vital, adaptable art form for decades. It reveals what makes anime unique as a medium: how it engages profound social and political realities while also drawing attention to the challenges of representing reality in animation’s imaginative and compelling visual forms.

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It addresses the question of \"how anime looks\"—in the sense of what it looks like, but also how it sees the world. The different chapters consider canonical anime films and short series from the last 30 years and juxtapose them with different comparison media including prose fiction, manga, live-action cinema, and even classical Japanese theater in order to ask what anime can do that other media cannot. The book also employs a wide range of critical methodologies—from poststructuralism to phenomenology, psychoanalysis, new media theory, and more—to investigate what each of these different approaches can reveal about anime's particular powers and blind spots. These different readings fit together into a broader argument that anime films are experienced differently from other media because their particular qualities move the viewer very rapidly back and forth between two extremes: an emotional or intellectual investment in the story or characters, and a more detached, metafictional consideration of the film and its figures as technological products or effects.

The result of this oscillation is an art form that can engage concrete social and political realities at the same time it addresses more abstract issues of how to represent those realities in the first place.

**INTERPRETING ANIME | By Christopher Bolton | Pacific Affairs (UBC Journal)**

Interpreting Anime is published by the University of Minnesota Press and is available from your favorite bookstore. Summer Wars. The video below provides a short introduction to the book. By Christopher Bolton. Be the first to review this product. Other Formats. Add to Cart. Add to Favourites Remove from Favourites. Where in stock. Sourced from our Overseas Supplier. Delivered in 10 - 20 days. Click and Collect in 10 - 20 days. Toggle filter item Description. Interpreting Anime is a thoughtful introduction to Japanese animation for anyone eager to see why this genre has remained a vital, adaptable art form for decades. It reveals what makes anime unique as a medium, how it engages profound social and political realities while also drawing attention to the challenges of representing reality in animation's imaginative and compelling visual forms.

Product code: ISBN This book marks an important moment in the development of anime studies —, and offers a useful series of critical readings of films mostly from this era. For this reason, and for the sake of the field of anime studies moving forward, I feel compelled to offer a critical reading. One of the foremost questions I bring is whether interpretation alone is an adequate framework for approaching anime today. Yet, since the earlycritic's writings from Thomas Lamarre, Liviu Monnet, Thomas Looser, Sharalyn Orbaugh—and indeed Bolton—have advocated for a combination of a media theory and aesthetic analysis of anime and interpretation.

My own work and that of others like Rayna Denison, Ian Condry, Sandra Annett, Bryan Hakiki Hartheim, Sugawa Akiko, Alexander Zahlten, Sheu-Hui Gan, Marco Pellitteri, and Stevie Suan, has prolonged the need for a material, generic, historical, or aesthetic and media industry approach to anime that also brings to attention new anime texts and their reception histories.

**Interpreting Anime by Christopher Bolton | Paper Plus**

The book is an intellectual joy to read. In his brilliant, acute, and always accessible Interpreting Anime, Christopher Bolton applies deep knowledge of Japanese aesthetic traditions, global media culture, and posthumanist theory to close readings of some of the most artistically ambitious and culturally significant works of the artform. Showing anime fans the beauty of theory and scholars the profundities of anime, Bolton recounts a specifically Japanese history of cyborg art, while offering insights into that most neglected and ubiquitous category of experience, fiction itself. Interpreting Anime is destined to become a classic study of anime and the cyborg imagination. Bolton has crafted a meaningful contribution to the scholarship of reading, one able to transcend its subject matter—anime—and speak to readers everywhere, those who seek as full, as complete an engagement with their texts as possible.

Bolton, with his careful elucidations of differing theoretical perspectives and approaches, followed by the application of those theories to specific anime works, provides an excellent illustration of the way in which theory can be utilized in the analysis of anime. There is no doubt that this book will find a home in the reading lists of most courses on anime, and provide both students and teachers of the subject with encouragement and stimulation. It will prove highly stimulating in Japan studies courses on popular culture and anime. Even as the anime industry evolves to encompass new platforms beyond television and cinema, so, too, does the critical theory that helps us to understand and analyze these changes.

Interpreting Anime responds to challenges from current anime scholarship and successfully proves the ongoing significance of literary methodology as a means of interpretation. Many of the chapters have been modified from previously published journal articles, and have been significantly expanded in the process. Very useful and enlightening reading for many scholars and students of literature and media. Bolton has created many entry points for anime fans to better explore and understand the format.


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Interpreting Anime is a thoughtful introduction to Japanese animation for anyone eager to see why this genre has remained a vital, adaptable art form for decades. It reveals what makes anime unique as a medium: how it engages profound social and political realities while also drawing attention to the challenges of representing reality in animation's imaginative and compelling visual forms.

His readings apply a gamut of approaches, from postmodernism to gender studies to individual texts, but they remain accessible and consistently fascinating, inspiring a deeper appreciation of this protean medium. The book is an intellectual joy to read. In his brilliant, acute, and always accessible Interpreting Anime, Christopher Bolton applies deep knowledge of Japanese aesthetic traditions, global media culture, and posthumanist theory to close readings of some of the most artistically ambitious and culturally significant works of the artform. Showing anime fans the beauties of theory and scholars the profundities of anime, Bolton recounts a specifically Japanese history of cyborg art, while offering insights into that most neglected and ubiquitous category of experience, fiction itself. Interpreting Anime is destined to become a classic study of anime and the cyborg imagination. Bolton has crafted a meaningful contribution to the scholarship of reading, one able to transcend its subject matter—anime—and speak to readers everywhere, those who seek as full, as complete an engagement with their texts as possible.

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