

Art Matters: Hemingway, Craft, and the Creation of the Modern Short Story

By Robert Paul Lamb

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In *Art Matters*, Robert Paul Lamb provides the definitive study of Ernest Hemingway's short story aesthetics. Lamb locates Hemingway's art in literary historical contexts and explains what he learned from earlier artists, including Edgar Allan Poe, Paul Cézanne, Henry James, Guy de Maupassant, Anton Chekhov, Stephen Crane, Gertrude Stein, James Joyce, and Ezra Pound. Examining how Hemingway developed this inheritance, Lamb insightfully charts the evolution of the unique style and innovative techniques that would forever change the nature of short fiction.

Art Matters opens with an analysis of the authorial effacement Hemingway learned from Maupassant and Chekhov, followed by fresh perspectives on the author's famous use of concision and omission. Redefining literary impressionism and expressionism as alternative modes for depicting modern consciousness, Lamb demonstrates how Hemingway and Willa Cather learned these techniques from Crane and made them the foundation of their respective aesthetics. After examining the development of Hemingway's art of focalization, he clarifies what Hemingway really learned from Stein and delineates their different uses of repetition. Turning from techniques to formal elements, *Art Matters* anatomizes Hemingway's story openings and endings, analyzes how he created an entirely unprecedented role for fictional dialogue, explores his methods of characterization, and categorizes his settings in the fifty-three stories that comprise his most important work in the genre.

A major contribution to Hemingway scholarship and to the study of modernist fiction, *Art Matters* shows exactly how Hemingway's craft functions and argues persuasively for the importance of studies of articulated technique to any meaningful understanding of fiction and literary history. The book also develops vital new ways of understanding the short story genre as Lamb constructs a critical apparatus for analyzing the short story, introduces to a larger audience ideas taken from practicing storywriters, theorists, and critics, and coins new terms and concepts that enrich our understanding of the field.

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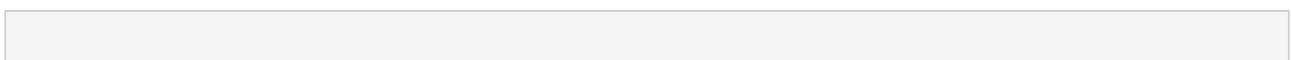
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Editorial Review

Review

Most impressive, greatly of interest to critics and creative writers, and deserves considerable attention from those interested in the short story, its development, and in Hemingway's importance to the genre. --Fred Svoboda, *The Hemingway Review*

Honored by the American Library Association as "An Outstanding Academic Title for 2010" --Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries

Hemingway was the master craftsman of twentieth-century American prose, perhaps the greatest influence on the writers who followed him. Lamb's searching and scrupulous book--focused on the most radical part of Hemingway's legacy, his short fiction--demonstrates exactly how it was done. At the same time, it joins a small handful of critical works that illuminate the aesthetics of the short story. --Morris Dickstein

Art Matters demonstrates conclusively that Ernest Hemingway's short fiction is rich with aesthetic implications. The study's analysis of form and technique will challenge preconceived notions of both the writer and the genre in which he best excelled. Whether examining Hemingway's affinities with the 'dispassionate presentation' of de Maupassant and Chekhov, exploring the strategies that allowed him to achieve the prerequisite of brevity, or enumerating the dramatic effects of repetition, Lamb shows how style indeed made the man. The chapter on point of view and voice is essential reading. This book is a major contribution to Hemingway studies and provides plenty of food for thought for short story historians and theorists as well. --Kirk Curnutt

Lamb's sweeping study of Ernest Hemingway's short fiction will appeal to a wide range of readers. For the less experienced, Lamb provides both an introduction and methodological scaffold to help readers better understand Hemingway's complex techniques and thematic concerns. For the initiated, he offers nuanced, sophisticated readings of Hemingway's short stories, impressive treatments that expand current understanding. But no matter the audience, this study illustrates characteristics desirable in a scholarly treatment: it is readable and engaging; it is supported by comprehensive research; and it is refreshingly transparent. Lamb covers such topics as Hemingway's use of omission, his employment of impressionism to depict consciousness, his progressive experiments with effaced narration, and his theories and practices regarding dialogue. Marrying informative critical theory and perceptive close readings throughout, Lamb illustrates the complexity of Hemingway's craft as a short story writer and accounts for his significant role in the development of the modern aesthetic. **Summing up: Essential. All readers.** -- Choice, August 2010 (Vol. 47, No. 11)

From the Back Cover

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James Rogers:

Now a day folks who Living in the era exactly where everything reachable by talk with the internet and the resources inside it can be true or not need people to be aware of each info they get. How a lot more to be smart in receiving any information nowadays? Of course the answer then is reading a book. Reading a book can help persons out of this uncertainty Information particularly this *Art Matters: Hemingway, Craft, and the Creation of the Modern Short Story* book since this book offers you rich info and knowledge. Of course the details in this book hundred % guarantees there is no doubt in it everbody knows.

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