

# Midwest Book Review



## Internet Bookwatch

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### The Philosophy Shelf

#### **What Art Is**

**Louis Torres & Michelle Marder Kamhi**

*What Art Is: The Esthetic Theory of Ayn Rand* surveys philosopher/novelist Ayn Rand (1905-1982) commentaries on the nature and meaning of art, contrasting her theory of esthetics with those of other thinkers. The authors conclude that, in its basic principles, Rand's account is compelling, and is corroborated by evidence from anthropology, neurology, cognitive science, and psychology. Rand's theory is applied to a debunking of the work of prominent modernists & postmodernists. Highly recommended, insightful, and challenging reading for students of philosophy and arts criticism, *What Art Is* concludes with an exploration of the implications of Rand's ideas for the issues of government and corporate support of the arts, art law, and arts education.