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East Asia by the Book

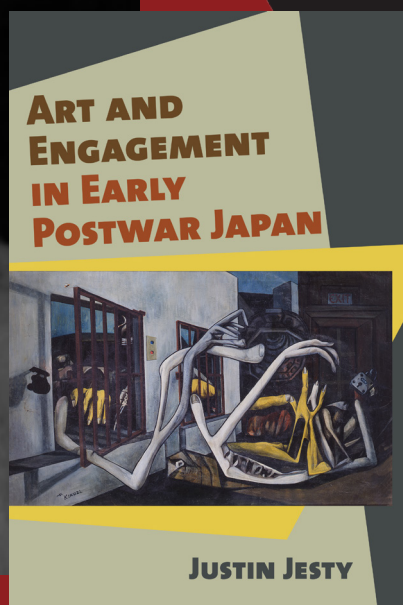
Art and Engagement in Early Postwar Japan

By Justin Jesty

Art and Engagement in Early Postwar Japan reframes the history of art and its politics in Japan post-1945. This fascinating cultural history addresses our broad understanding of the immediate postwar era moving toward the Cold War and subsequent consolidations of political and cultural life. At the same time, Jesty delves into an examination of the relationship between art and politics that approaches art as a mode of intervention, but he moves beyond the idea that the artwork or artist unilaterally authors political significance to trace how creations and expressive acts may (or may not) actually engage the terms of shared meaning and value.

Justin Jesty is Associate Professor of Japanese at the University of Washington, where he researches the relationship between art and social movements in postwar Japan. He is currently researching socially engaged art in contemporary Japan. In 2017 he edited a two-part special issue on the topic in the journal *FIELD: A Journal of Socially-Engaged Art Criticism*. He has also published articles on the realism debate of the late 1940s, Hamaya Hiroshi's photographs of the 1960 Anpo protests, and the Minamata documentaries of Tsuchimoto Noriaki.

TUESDAY
APRIL 16
5:00PM



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