

Second Edition

Nicholas Mirzoeff  
AN INTRODUCTION TO VISUAL CULTURE

Routledge

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# An Introduction to VISUAL CULTURE

Nicholas Mirzoeff

"In this updated and expanded second edition of his provocative *An Introduction to Visual Culture*, Nicholas Mirzoeff takes us on a momentous journey through visual culture to our own network society. As a careful historian and dextrous theorist, by interweaving modalities of visibility, the author tracks a path – sometimes utopian, more often dystopian – in search of a possibility just beyond our grasp: the dream of transculture as *the* sign of interdemocratic politics. For Mirzoeff, such a journey is only feasible by way of the interdisciplinary field of Visual Culture Studies where visual culture is understood as the study of 'the place of visibility in the division of the sensible'. He is right."

Marquard Smith, *Founder and Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Visual Culture, and Principal Lecturer in Visual Culture Studies, University of Westminster, London*

"Nicholas Mirzoeff's new synthesis of visual culture study is a tour-de-force comparative reading that begins where most comprehensive books in the field leave off, with globalization. If, as Mirzoeff tells us, in his scintillating style, visibility has alienated vision from its users, then this lively and impassioned account is certain to put readers right at the heart of the problem with a spectrum of examples through which to work it through."

Lisa Cartwright, *Professor of Communication and Science Studies, University of California at San Diego, USA*

*An Introduction to Visual Culture* provides a wide-ranging introduction to the now established interdisciplinary field of visual culture.

Mapping a global history and theory of visual culture, *An Introduction to Visual Culture* asks how and why visual media have become so central to everyday life.

Improved text design and colour images throughout make it an even more valuable teaching tool. Brand new features in the second edition include Key Image studies from Holbein's *The Ambassadors*, to *Blade Runner* and the Abu Ghraib atrocities; and a Key Words section in each chapter, discussing vital critical terms and the debates that surround them.

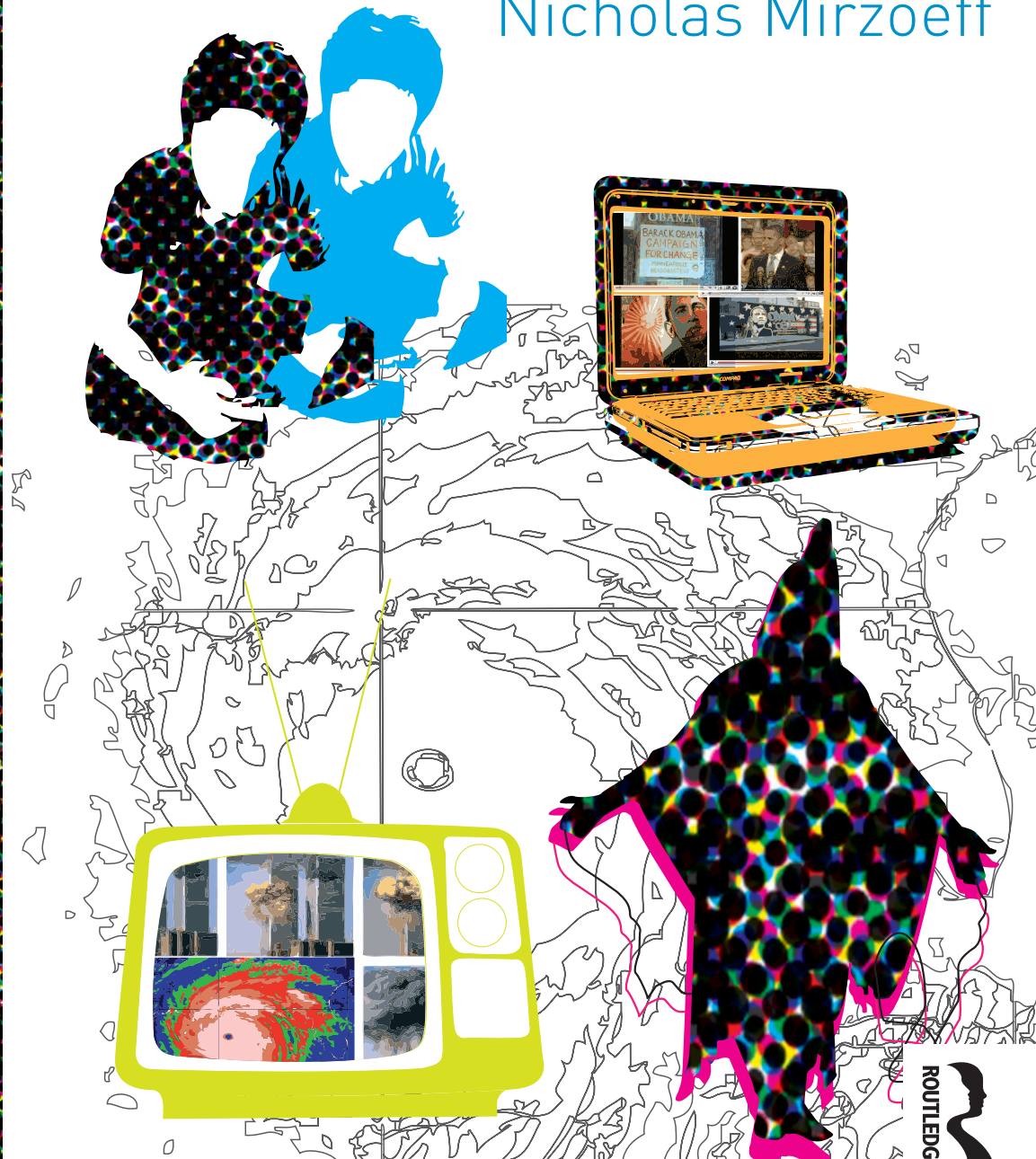
In this innovative, thoroughly revised and extended edition, Nicholas Mirzoeff explores:

- an extensive range of visual forms from painting, sculpture, and photography to television, cinema, and the Internet;
- the centrality of "race" and ethnicity, gender and sexuality, and the body in shaping visual culture;
- the importance of images of natural disaster and conflict, such as Hurricane Katrina and the war in Iraq.

Nicholas Mirzoeff is Professor of Media, Culture, and Communication at New York University. He is author and editor of many books including *Watching Babylon* (1995) and *The Visual Culture Reader* (2002).



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