



The Ethics of Visuality: Levinas and the Contemporary Gaze (International Library of Contemporary Philosophy)

By Hagi Kenaan

Download now

Read Online →

The Ethics of Visuality: Levinas and the Contemporary Gaze (International Library of Contemporary Philosophy) By Hagi Kenaan

Our world is saturated with images. Overwhelmed by this proliferation of visual stimuli, our gaze becomes increasingly bored and distracted. Do we ever really read and engage with images? Can they ever provide the sense of meaningfulness we crave?

French-Jewish philosopher Emmanuel Levinas confronted and subverted these questions. A superficial reading of his works might indicate an ambivalence if not a wholesale critique of the visual, whose mode of signification remains, for him, objectified, finite and flat. Yet an enigmatic statement – 'Ethics is an optics' – recurred throughout his work. Hagi Kenaan takes this mysterious idea as the starting point for a strikingly original philosophical argument on the place of visuality in Levinas' ethics. The Ethics of Visuality analyses Levinas' philosophy of the human face in order to show how his vision of 'Otherness'(alterity and transcendence) can open up for us a new and surprising kind of optics that is so needed for an ethical living in the contemporary world.

Where other critical approaches have largely undermined Levinas' ambivalence towards the visual, The Ethics of Visuality uncovers the relevance of Levinas' bias against the visual to developing a radical philosophy/theory of visual meaning in which the aesthetic is always already intertwined with the ethical.

↓ [Download The Ethics of Visuality: Levinas and the Contempor ...pdf](#)

📖 [Read Online The Ethics of Visuality: Levinas and the Contemp ...pdf](#)

The Ethics of Visuality: Levinas and the Contemporary Gaze (International Library of Contemporary Philosophy)

By Hagi Kenaan

The Ethics of Visuality: Levinas and the Contemporary Gaze (International Library of Contemporary Philosophy) By Hagi Kenaan

Our world is saturated with images. Overwhelmed by this proliferation of visual stimuli, our gaze becomes increasingly bored and distracted. Do we ever really read and engage with images? Can they ever provide the sense of meaningfulness we crave?

French-Jewish philosopher Emmanuel Levinas confronted and subverted these questions. A superficial reading of his works might indicate an ambivalence if not a wholesale critique of the visual, whose mode of signification remains, for him, objectified, finite and flat. Yet an enigmatic statement – 'Ethics is an optics' – recurred throughout his work. Hagi Kenaan takes this mysterious idea as the starting point for a strikingly original philosophical argument on the place of visuality in Levinas' ethics. The Ethics of Visuality analyses Levinas' philosophy of the human face in order to show how his vision of 'Otherness'(alterity and transcendence) can open up for us a new and surprising kind of optics that is so needed for an ethical living in the contemporary world.

Where other critical approaches have largely undermined Levinas' ambivalence towards the visual, The Ethics of Visuality uncovers the relevance of Levinas' bias against the visual to developing a radical philosophy/theory of visual meaning in which the aesthetic is always already intertwined with the ethical.

The Ethics of Visuality: Levinas and the Contemporary Gaze (International Library of Contemporary Philosophy) By Hagi Kenaan Bibliography

- Rank: #2109427 in Books
- Published on: 2013-07-25
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.66" h x .56" w x 5.60" l, .55 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 192 pages

 [Download The Ethics of Visuality: Levinas and the Contempor ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Ethics of Visuality: Levinas and the Contemp ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Ethics of Visuality: Levinas and the Contemporary Gaze (International Library of Contemporary Philosophy) By Hagi Kenaan

Editorial Review

Review

'Kenaan's brilliant study reveals what Levinas' 'ethical turn' has to teach us about the ethical potential of the visual. His study offers nothing less than a guide for restoring to us an ethics of vision in our postmodern world. It is an urgent, compelling and, ultimately, hopeful work.' – Martin Berger, Professor and Chair, History of Art and Visual Culture, University of California at Santa Cruz

'Hagi Kenaan questions the manner in which the Other's face shows itself to us. In what ways, he asks, is the appearance of a human face different from the appearance of objects? In what sense does the uniqueness of the face signify an exit from the sphere of the ego? Reading Levinas in light of the philosophies of Husserl, Heidegger, Merleau-Ponty and Sartre, Kenaan analyses with finesse how the face subverts the primacy of consciousness [...] The face is a reminder of an alterity irreducible to the flow of images that tyrannically occupy our field of vision. Its otherness, however, neither appears as a beauty to behold nor does it suggest a promise of happiness. It disconcerts us. And it is in this difficult, paradoxical and eminently singular optics that the ethical life upholds itself. Ethics becomes an optics, Kenaan shows, when the vulnerability of the face is perceived as a call for a conversion of the gaze.' – Catherine Chalier, Professor of Philosophy, Université Paris Ouest Nanterre La Défense

'The Ethics of Visuality is an extraordinary achievement. The author offers a brilliant meditation not only on Levinas' thought but also through it, engaging and going beyond it, culminating in profound insights. It is a must-read for anyone seriously interested not only in visuality but also in the very condition of what it means to speak with responsibility about appearance.' – Lewis R. Gordon, Professor of Philosophy, African American Studies and Judaic Studies at the University of Connecticut at Storrs, and author of *Disciplinary Decadence*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Earl Diehl:

Spent a free time to be fun activity to do! A lot of people spent their sparetime with their family, or their friends. Usually they performing activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic within the park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your free time/ holiday? May be reading a book could be option to fill your free time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to try look for book, may be the e-book untitled *The Ethics of Visuality: Levinas and the Contemporary Gaze (International Library of Contemporary Philosophy)* can be very good book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

Robert Pinkerton:

Don't be worry in case you are afraid that this book may filled the space in your house, you will get it in e-

book approach, more simple and reachable. This kind of *The Ethics of Visuality: Levinas and the Contemporary Gaze* (International Library of Contemporary Philosophy) can give you a lot of good friends because by you taking a look at this one book you have factor that they don't and make you actually more like an interesting person. This book can be one of one step for you to get success. This reserve offer you information that maybe your friend doesn't recognize, by knowing more than different make you to be great men and women. So , why hesitate? We need to have *The Ethics of Visuality: Levinas and the Contemporary Gaze* (International Library of Contemporary Philosophy).

Cynthia Carter:

What is your hobby? Have you heard in which question when you got college students? We believe that that query was given by teacher to their students. Many kinds of hobby, Everybody has different hobby. Therefore you know that little person like reading or as examining become their hobby. You need to know that reading is very important and also book as to be the point. Book is important thing to include you knowledge, except your teacher or lecturer. You discover good news or update in relation to something by book. Many kinds of books that can you take to be your object. One of them is this *The Ethics of Visuality: Levinas and the Contemporary Gaze* (International Library of Contemporary Philosophy).

Nicholas Gober:

Reading a book make you to get more knowledge from it. You can take knowledge and information from the book. Book is written or printed or illustrated from each source that filled update of news. Within this modern era like today, many ways to get information are available for you actually. From media social like newspaper, magazines, science publication, encyclopedia, reference book, novel and comic. You can add your knowledge by that book. Are you ready to spend your spare time to spread out your book? Or just trying to find the *The Ethics of Visuality: Levinas and the Contemporary Gaze* (International Library of Contemporary Philosophy) when you necessary it?

Download and Read Online *The Ethics of Visuality: Levinas and the Contemporary Gaze* (International Library of Contemporary Philosophy) By Hagi Kenaan #ILE9WKM4NQ0

Read The Ethics of Visuality: Levinas and the Contemporary Gaze (International Library of Contemporary Philosophy) By Hagi Kenaan for online ebook

The Ethics of Visuality: Levinas and the Contemporary Gaze (International Library of Contemporary Philosophy) By Hagi Kenaan Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Ethics of Visuality: Levinas and the Contemporary Gaze (International Library of Contemporary Philosophy) By Hagi Kenaan books to read online.

Online The Ethics of Visuality: Levinas and the Contemporary Gaze (International Library of Contemporary Philosophy) By Hagi Kenaan ebook PDF download

The Ethics of Visuality: Levinas and the Contemporary Gaze (International Library of Contemporary Philosophy) By Hagi Kenaan Doc

The Ethics of Visuality: Levinas and the Contemporary Gaze (International Library of Contemporary Philosophy) By Hagi Kenaan Mobipocket

The Ethics of Visuality: Levinas and the Contemporary Gaze (International Library of Contemporary Philosophy) By Hagi Kenaan EPub