

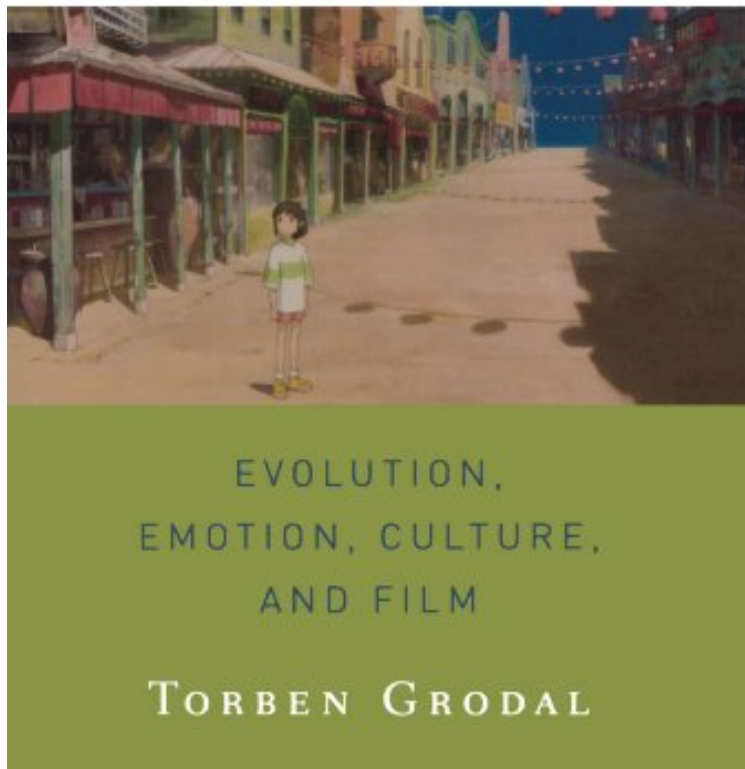
[Library ebook] Embodied Visions: Evolution, Emotion, Culture, and Film

# Embodied Visions: Evolution, Emotion, Culture, and Film

*Torben Grodal*

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## EMBODIED VISIONS



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**Torben Grodal : Embodied Visions: Evolution, Emotion, Culture, and Film** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Embodied Visions: Evolution, Emotion, Culture, and Film:

1 of 8 people found the following review helpful. How we process films by means of what I call the mental PECMA flowBy ROROTOKO"Embodied Visions" is on the ROROTOKO list of cutting-edge intellectual nonfiction. Professor Grodal's book interview ran here as cover feature on August 21, 2009.

Embodied Visions presents a groundbreaking analysis of film through the lens of bioculturalism, revealing how human biology as well as human culture determine how films are made and experienced. Throughout his study, Torben Grodal uses the breakthroughs of modern brain science to explain central features of film aesthetics and to construct a general model of aesthetic experience-what he terms the PECMA flow model-that demonstrates the movement of information and emotions in the brain when viewing film. Examining a wide array of genres-animation, romance, pornography, fantasy, horror-from evolutionary and psychological perspectives, Grodal also reflects on social issues at the intersection of film theory and neuropsychology. These include moral problems in film viewing, how we experience realism and character identification, and the value of the subjective forms that cinema uniquely elaborates.

"We have long needed a theory of film which was naturalistic-which shows what cognitive psychology, evolutionary psychology, and brain science can tell us about movies. Torben Grodal has created a comprehensive and detailed version of such a theory. He ranges widely across genres and periods, old media and new, and he finds something new to say about every subject he touches. Embodied Visions gives us a provocative set of explanations for how and why we get so emotionally invested in shadows on a screen."-David Bordwell, University of Wisconsin-Madison"For decades the field of film studies has been under the sway of theories of social and linguistic determinism. Challenging these approaches, Grodal brilliantly shows why the natural sciences are relevant for a comprehensive understanding of cinema. This book is essential reading for scholars and viewers seeking to understand film as a universal and cross-cultural medium of expression."-Stephen Prince, Virginia Tech"Grodal has thrown down the gauntlet to film studies, giving us the first really detailed model of an evolutionary theory of film. This work will become a major reference point for scholars working on similar terrain, and indeed for any serious theorist of film."-Murray Smith, University of KentAbout the AuthorTorben Grodal is Professor of Film and Media at the University of Copenhagen. He is author of numerous publications, including Moving Pictures: A New Theory of Film Genres, Feelings, and Cognition.