An edited collection of writings about and by artists who have employed utopian strategies in contemporary art. It contains a scholarly introduction by the editor.

**Item Type:** Book


**OUTPUT:** This book is an edited collection of writings by artists, critics and theorists about the concept of utopia in the field of visual art. There is an introductory essay, in which the significance of the concept in both the history of ideas and art is developed, as well as an argument with respect to how we might understand its significance within contemporary art.

**FIELD OF KNOWLEDGE**

The introductory essay and the edited writings form a contribution to the complex debates around the relation between art and politics. The claim is that utopian strategies can offer an effective means through which artists can engage with political subject matter.

**METHODOLOGY**

The basic argument is that utopian strategies involve a methodology of modelling possible world scenarios, that enable and shape debate around social and political questions, without at the same time instrumentalising art as a form of political activism, or a type of social scientific research. The introductory essay also outlines the methodology of the book, which is to divide the various iterations of the utopian impulse in contemporary art into five categories: the utopian imaginary, utopian avant-gardes, therapeutic utopias, critical utopias and utopia.

**DISSEMINATION**

The book has been one of the leading sellers in the ‘Documents in Contemporary Art’ series published by Whitechapel/MIT. It has had wide distribution globally, and been written about and discussed at conferences at the Arken Museum in Denmark on *Utopias* (2010) and the Mori Museum in Tokyo (2012). It is in its second printing.
The Utopia trope as used in popular culture. Any dictionary will give you this much: n: An ideally perfect place, especially in its social, political, and … Lev Grossman: Do you think of The Culture as a utopia? Would you live in it, if you could? Iain Banks: Good grief yes, to both! A Utopia (/juˈtoʊpiə/ yoo-TOH-pee-a) is an imagined community or society that possesses highly desirable or nearly perfect qualities for its citizens. The opposite of a utopia is a dystopia. One could also say that utopia is a perfect "place" that has been designed so there are no problems. Utopia focuses on equality in economics, government and justice, though by no means exclusively, with the method and structure of proposed implementation varying based on ideology. According to Lyman Tower Sargent