

The Confluence of Art and Sociology: Hans Haacke and Pierre Bourdieu's Free Exchange

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Abstract

The book *Free Exchange* documents the dialogue between the artist Hans Haacke and the sociologist Pierre Bourdieu in which they openly exchange views on many issues regarding cultural politics from the mid 1980s to the early 1990s. Their meeting yields rich and powerful interdisciplinary insights rather than merely showing their respective achievements in art and sociology. Art historians and sociologists have long ignored their affinities; however, Bourdieu's reflexive sociology and Haacke's critique of art institutions share much in common. Both reconsider the properties, definition, and impact of the cultural field. The title of the book also represents both authors' common goal: an open realm where art and scholarship, free from any "symbolic dominations," effectively resist the intrusions of conservatives, market, media, and politics in all the aspects of production, distribution, and reception. The main ideas and art pieces contained in *Free Exchange* will be analyzed in relation to both authors' other works and their contexts. This paper examines the similarities and differences between Haacke's and Bourdieu's views; focusing on their research on the sociology of art, notions of "autonomy of the field," critiques of media and simulacrum, perspectives on multiculturalism, and ideals of republicanism.

Key Words: Hans Haacke, Pierre Bourdieu, sociology of art, symbolic dominations, autonomy of the field