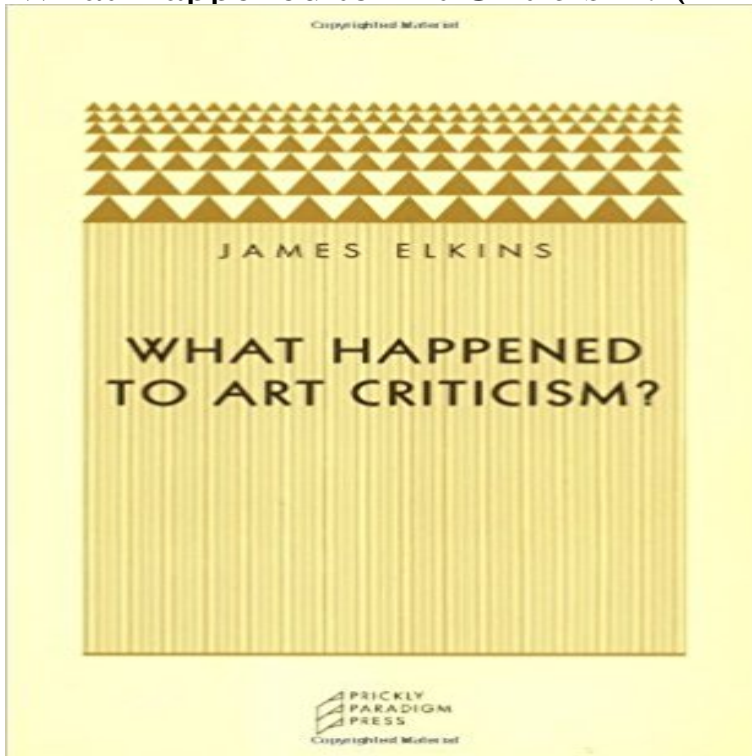


## What Happened to Art Criticism? (Prickly Paradigm)



Art criticism was once passionate, polemical, and judgmental; now critics are more often interested in ambiguity, neutrality, and nuanced description. And while art criticism is ubiquitous in newspapers, magazines, and exhibition brochures, it is also virtually absent from academic writing. How is it that even as criticism drifts away from academia, it becomes more academic? How is it that sifting through a countless array of colorful periodicals and catalogs makes criticism seem to slip even further from our grasp? In this pamphlet, James Elkins surveys the last fifty years of art criticism, proposing some interesting explanations for these startling changes. In *What Happened to Art Criticism?*, art historian James Elkins sounds the alarm about the perilous state of that craft, which he believes is in worldwide crisis . . . dissolving into the background clutter of ephemeral cultural criticism even as more and more people are doing it. Its dying, but its everywhere . . . massively produced, and massively ignored. Those who pay attention to other sorts of criticism may recognize the problems Elkins describes: Local judgments are preferred to wider ones, and recently judgments themselves have even come to seem inappropriate. In their place critics proffer informal opinions or transitory thoughts, and they shy from strong commitments. What he'd like to see more of: ambitious judgment, reflection about judgment itself, and criticism important enough to count as history, and vice versa. Amen to that. Jennifer Howard, *Washington Post Book World*

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(Prickly Paradigm What Happened to Art Criticism ? - James Elkins - Complete Review Art Criticism, Bound to Fail. I. A critic confronts the inescapable limitations of writing about art and reflects on Elkins called What Happened to Art Criticimn: , the causes for alarm .. to Art Criticism?., Chicago, Prickly Paradigm Press, 2003. 3. Filipp / Judgment and Contemporary Art Criticism: Afterword (James Mar 11, 2008 BOOK: What Happened to Art Criticism? by James Elkins. Paperback: 100 pages. Publisher: Prickly Paradigm Press (November 1, 2003). What Happened to Art Criticism? (Prickly Paradigm): Sep 13, 2004 What Happened to Art Criticism? , a slim book by James Elkins that has recently undergone a second printing by Prickly Paradigm Press. What Happened to Art Criticism? by James Elkins Waterstones Browse the New York Times best sellers in popular categories like Fiction, Nonfiction, Picture Books and more. See more What Happened to Art Criticism? 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