

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910785499403321
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Titolo	Art in public : politics, economics, and a democratic culture / / Lambert Zuidervaart [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2011
ISBN	1-107-21263-4 0-511-85269-X 1-282-91746-3 9786612917462 0-511-76034-5 0-511-93151-4 0-511-93285-5 0-511-92766-5 0-511-92512-3 0-511-93017-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xiii, 338 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	700.1/03
Soggetti	Government aid to the arts Democracy and the arts Arts and society Relational art
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 01 Feb 2016).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Machine generated contents note: Part I. Double Deficit: 1. Culture wars; 2. What good is art?; 3. Just art?; Part II. Civil Society: 4. Public sphere; 5. Civic sector; 6. Countervailing forces; Part III. Modernism Remixed: 7. Relational autonomy; 8. Authenticity and responsibility; 9/ Democratic culture; 10. Transforming cultural policy.
Sommario/riassunto	This book examines fundamental questions about funding for the arts: why should governments provide funding for the arts? What do the arts contribute to daily life? Do artists and their publics have a social responsibility? Challenging questionable assumptions about the state, the arts and a democratic society, Lambert Zuidervaart presents a

vigorous case for government funding, based on crucial contributions the arts make to civil society. He argues that the arts contribute to democratic communication and a social economy, fostering the critical and creative dialogue that a democratic society needs. Informed by the author's experience leading a non-profit arts organisation as well as his expertise in the arts, humanities and social sciences, this book proposes an entirely new conception of the public role of art with wide-ranging implications for education, politics and cultural policy.
