Marcuse believed desperately in the need to resuscitate the sensuality and joy of Eros in society. He felt that the rationalisation of consumerism had distorted the individual’s ability to conceive of alternatives to the imposed structure and needs of everyday life. Miles breathes fresh confidence into Marcuse’s energised calls to revolt against the confines of popular society and truly live as art.

This is an important and valuable introduction and accompaniment to the reading of Marcuse’s many works. He is a provocative philosopher who has not been encountered nearly enough in theory that considers the malaise and disconnect within today’s public spaces and institutions. The primary idea in this book, and in the writings of Marcuse himself, that creativity can rejuvenate both individuals and society, should be a vital source for reflection and change as we move further into the twenty-first century.

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