

Off-Screen Cinema: Isidore Isou and the Lettrist Avant-Garde

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Kaira M. Cabaas : **Off-Screen Cinema: Isidore Isou and the Lettrist Avant-Garde** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Off-Screen Cinema: Isidore Isou and the Lettrist Avant-Garde:

One of the most important avant-garde movements of postwar Paris was Lettrism, which crucially built an interest in the relationship between writing and image into projects in poetry, painting, and especially cinema. Highly influential, the Lettrists served as a bridge of sorts between the earlier works of the Dadaists and Surrealists and the later

Conceptual artists. *Off-Screen Cinema* is the first monograph in English of the Lettrists. Offering a full portrait of the avant-garde scene of 1950s Paris, it focuses on the film works of key Lettrist figures like Gil J Wolman, Maurice Lematre, Francois Dufrene, and especially the movement's founder, Isidore Isou, a Romanian immigrant whose discrepant editing deliberately uncoupled image and sound. Through Cabaas's history, we see not only the full scope of the Lettrist project, but also its clear influence on Situationism, the French New Wave, the New Realists, as well as American filmmakers such as Stan Brakhage.

Provides a richly analyzed and rewarding context for critical films and film theory from subsequent decades. Invaluable for those interested in avant-garde film and art. . . . Highly recommended."