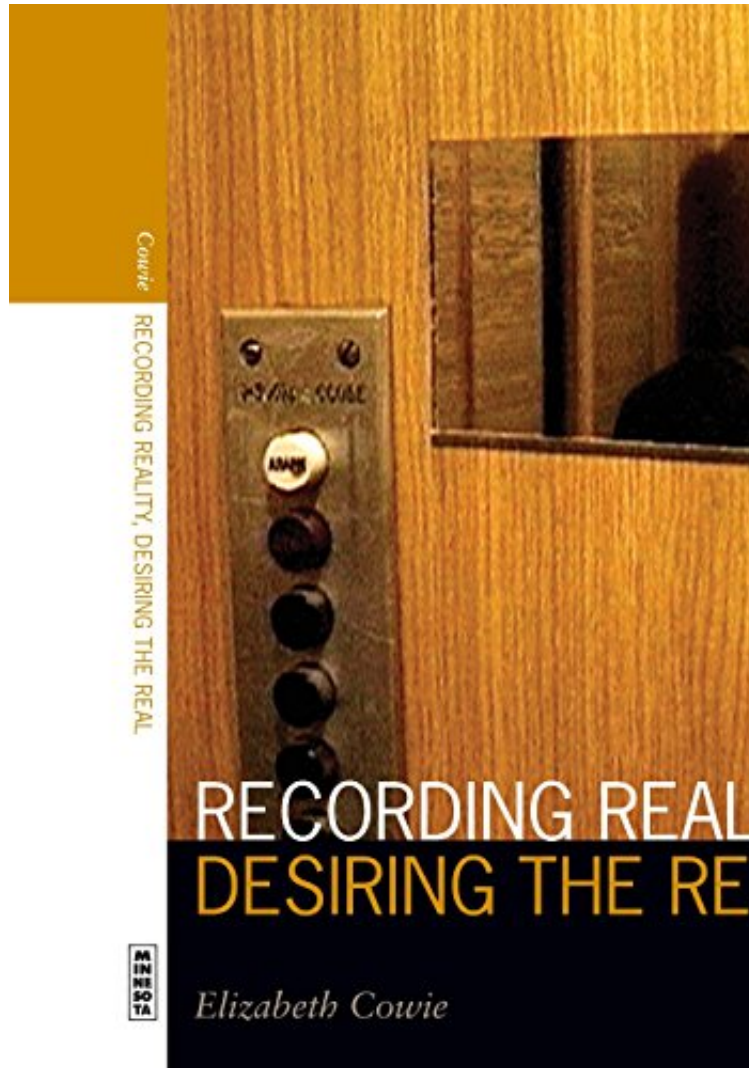


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## Recording Reality, Desiring the Real (Visible Evidence)

*Elizabeth Cowie*

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Documentary has once again emerged as one of the most vital cultural forms, whether seen in cinemas or inside the home, as digital, film, or video. In Recording Reality, Desiring the Real, Elizabeth Cowie looks at the history of documentary and its contemporary forms, showing how it has been simultaneously understood as factual, as story, as art, and as political, addressing the seeming paradox between the pleasures of spectacle in the documentary and its

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"Elizabeth Cowie brings her keen analytical intelligence to bear in addressing the paradoxes of documentary. She demonstrates how the theoretically informed analysis of the history of documentary has become even more crucial in the light of its recent modes of incarnation in reality television, news/catastrophe reporting, and the public display of personal, seemingly mundane, everyday details on the Internet. This is an intricate and powerful treatment of our psychological investment in the representation of the real that will certainly have a major impact on our thinking about documentary." Mary Anne Doane, Brown University