

# Iconoclasm: David Freedberg's Groundbreaking Study of Image Destruction

Iconoclasm, the destruction of religious images, has been a recurring phenomenon throughout history. From the biblical prohibition against graven images to the Reformation iconoclasts' destruction of Catholic art, the destruction of religious images has been a powerful expression of religious fervor, social unrest, and political power.

In his groundbreaking study, "Iconoclasm and the Making of Images," David Freedberg offers a comprehensive history of iconoclasm, tracing its origins in ancient times to its manifestations in the present day. Freedberg argues that iconoclasm is not merely a destructive act, but a creative one that has played a vital role in the development of religious art.



## Iconoclasm by David Freedberg

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 5055 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Print length : 368 pages  
Lending : Enabled



## Freedberg's Key Arguments

Freedberg's study of iconoclasm is based on several key arguments:

1. **Iconoclasm is a form of image-making.** Freedberg argues that iconoclasm is not simply the destruction of images, but a creative act that produces new images. The destruction of an image creates a void that can be filled with new meanings and interpretations.
2. **Iconoclasm is a social and political phenomenon.** Freedberg shows that iconoclasm is often motivated by social and political factors. The destruction of religious images can be a way of expressing dissent, challenging authority, or asserting control.
3. **Iconoclasm is a religious phenomenon.** Freedberg argues that iconoclasm is ultimately a religious phenomenon. The destruction of religious images is often motivated by a desire to purify religion or to return to a purer form of worship.

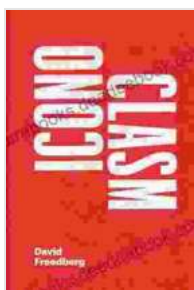
## **The Significance of Freedberg's Research**

Freedberg's study of iconoclasm has had a profound impact on the field of art history. His work has helped to broaden our understanding of the role of images in religion and society. Freedberg has also shown that iconoclasm is not a marginal phenomenon, but a central part of the history of art.

Freedberg's research has also had a significant impact on contemporary debates about the role of religion in public life. In a world where religious conflict is often expressed through violence, Freedberg's work offers a reminder that the destruction of religious images is not a new phenomenon. It is a complex and multifaceted issue that deserves careful consideration.

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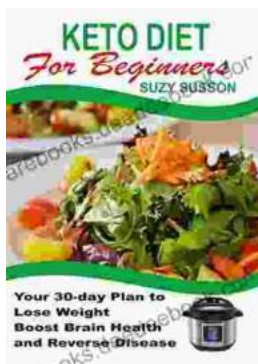
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