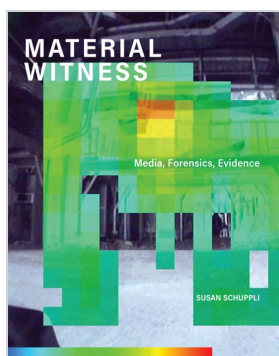


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# MATERIAL WITNESS

Media, Forensics, Evidence

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By [Susan Schuppli](#)  
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The evidential role of matter – when media records trace evidence of violence – explored through a series of cases drawn from Kosovo, Japan, Vietnam, and elsewhere.

[\(#rail-Endorsement\)](#)

“Susan Schuppli’s book arrays the various matters of

**Overview**

**Author(s)**

**Praise**

**Summary**

The evidential role of matter – when media recor

war, of ecological disaster, of surveillance, and the gaps in transmissions to explain how matter becomes the agent to bear witness. This book offers a compelling case for the extended evidential prowess lurking in grains, pixels, molecules, particles, and in the blurry outlines of x-rays or the fuzz of radiation. *MATERIAL WITNESS* is brilliant and it is sharp.”

Esther Leslie, Professor of Political Aesthetics at Birkbeck, University of London

**violence – explored through a series of cases drawn from Vietnam, and elsewhere.**

In this book, Susan Schuppli introduces a new operative witness, an exploration of the evidential role of material external events and exposing the practices and procedures of matter to bear witness. Organized in the format of *Witness* moves through a series of cases that provide the materials which become contested agents of displacement. The holders gather.

These cases include an extraordinary videotape discovered at Izbica, Kosovo, used as war crimes evidence against the telephonic transmission of an iconic photograph of a girl fleeing an accidental napalm attack; radioactive material discovered in Canada's coastal waters five years after Fukushima Daiichi; and the ecological media or “displacement” of the Deep Water Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. To what degree to which a rearrangement of matter exposes the act of witnessing, raising questions about what can be known, what which is seen or sensed, about who or what is able to bear witness to things, and about whose stories will be heeded or ignored.

An artist-researcher, Schuppli offers an analysis that links sensibility with a forensic imagination rich in technical detail, to relink the material world and its affordances with the political and the political.

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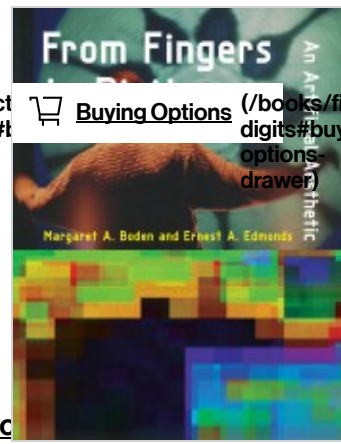
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