These Are a Few of My Favorite Things

Elizabeth Douvan;

Abstract

Originally published in Contemporary Psychology: APA Review of Books, 1982, Vol 27(11), 860-861. Reviews the book, The Meaning of Things: Domestic Symbols and the Self by Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi and Eugene Rochberg-Halton (1981). This book sets for itself the task of exploring and mapping a territory opened by William James the relationship between the self and material objects, the ways in which things are integrated in the self, and the ways in which the self becomes extended and enlarged through the incorporation of aspects of material reality. The authors focus their study on the domestic sphere, on the objects that compose people's most immediate personal environment. On the side of theory, the book advances our understanding significantly authors pose three aspects or modes that mediate the person-object relation aesthetics, channeling of energy, and cultivation of goals and intent. Their theory respects the integrity and power of the object as well as of the person to affect the transaction. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2006 APA, all rights reserved)

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