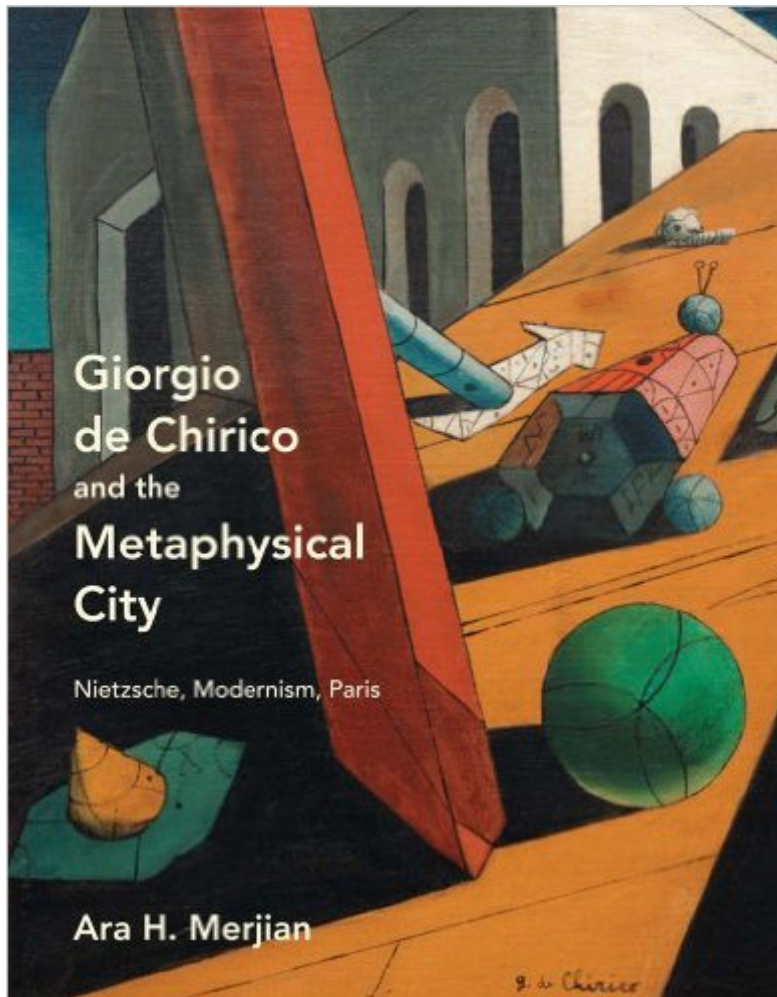


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Giorgio De Chirico And The Metaphysical City: Nietzsche, Modernism, Paris



Synopsis

Painted in Paris on the eve of World War One, the Metaphysical cityscapes of Giorgio de Chirico (1888-1978) redirected the course of modernist painting and the modern architectural imagination alike. *Giorgio de Chirico and the Metaphysical City* examines the two most salient dimensions of the artist's early imagery: its representations of architectural space and its sustained engagement with the philosophy of Friedrich Nietzsche. Centering upon a single painting from 1914; deemed by the painter 'the fatal year'; each chapter examines why and how de Chirico's self-declared 'Nietzschean method' takes architecture as its pictorial means and metaphor. The first, full-length study in English to focus on the painter's seminal work from pre-war Paris, the book places de Chirico's 'literary' images back in the context of the city's avant-garde, particularly the circle of Guillaume Apollinaire. Merjian's study sheds light on one of the most influential and least understood figures in 20th-century aesthetics, while also contributing to an understanding of Nietzsche's paradoxical consequences for modernism.

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This is an outstanding study of de Chirico's Metaphysical art that emphasizes the importance of Nietzsche to the artist's development. It is sumptuously illustrated--the permissions must have cost a bundle.

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