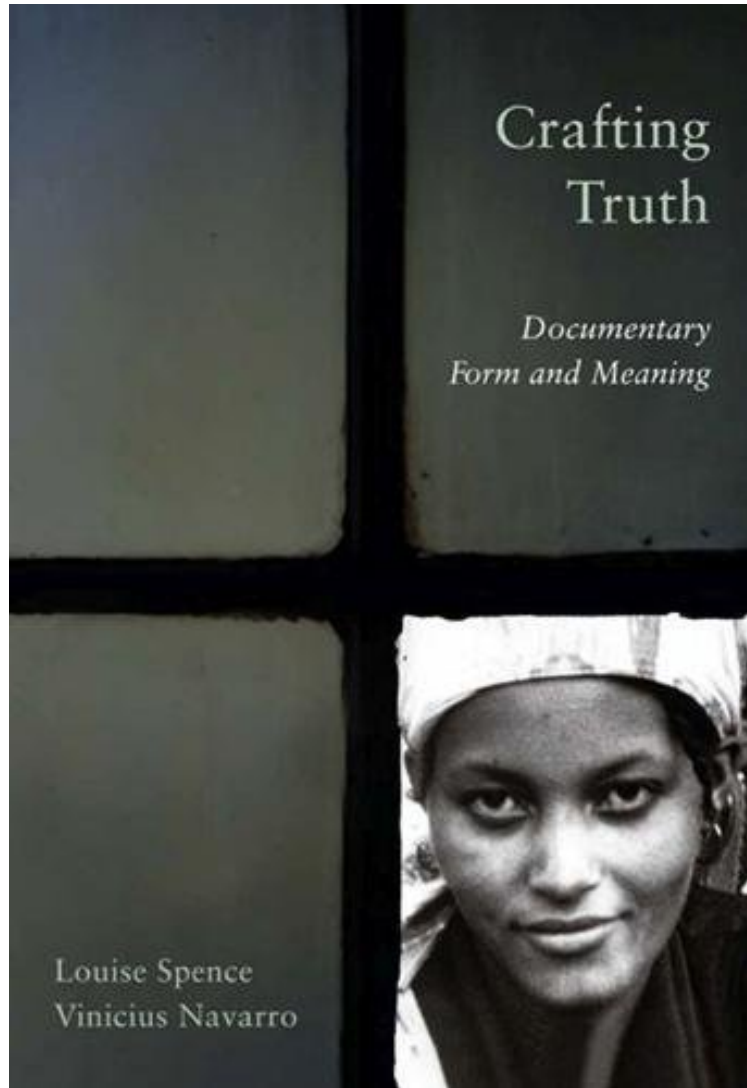


Crafting Truth: Documentary Form and Meaning

Professor Louise Spence, Dr. Vinicius Navarro
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Professor Louise Spence, Dr. Vinicius Navarro : Crafting Truth: Documentary Form and Meaning before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Crafting Truth: Documentary Form and Meaning:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Uninspiring, UninformativeBy Professor BubbaThere are many more insightful texts for a documentary syllabus, such as the rare interviews of Werner Herzog, or the provocative writings of Ranciere. This book is SO BAD! Chapter after chapter spent on the most obvious and dull issues. But the worst part are the example films presented. For example, the book discusses in detail David Holtzman's Diary, which is an unremarkable, obscure, and not particularly interesting film. And of course, the book is older and misses some of

the most groundbreaking documentaries of recent years: Act of Killing, Searching for Sugarman, Grizzly Man, and the Square, to name a few. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Good intro to Doc film, a bit repetitive. By EB99I bought this book because it was required for my history of documentary film course. It is an excellent overview of basic documentary film elements. What I enjoyed about it most is its inclusion of analysis and application of many famous and not-so-famous documentary films...their discussion of some films made me run to Netflix and stream/order a copy! My only gripe with this book is its somewhat repetitive nature; perhaps this is just me though, I realize that some modes of analysis of film overlap with each other and thus concepts are similar but named differently. But in general, I enjoy this book and it was one of the more enjoyable books of my collegiate career :) 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Thanks! By JOHN E. ASKEW Jr. Great product and quick delivery.

Documentaries such as Zana Briski and Ross Kauffman's *Born into Brothels*, Michael Moore's *Fahrenheit 9/11*, Jeffrey Blitz's *Spellbound*, along with *March of the Penguins* and *An Inconvenient Truth* have achieved critical as well as popular success. Although nonfiction film may have captured imaginations, many viewers enter and leave theaters with a naive concept of "truth" and "reality"—for them, documentaries are information sources. But is truth or reality readily available, easily acquired, or undisputed? Or do documentaries convey illusions of truth and reality? What aesthetic means are used to build these illusions? A documentary's sounds and images are always the product of selection and choice, and often underscore points the filmmaker wishes to make. *Crafting Truth* illuminates the ways these films tell their stories; how they use the camera, editing, sound, and performance; what rhetorical devices they employ; and what the theoretical, practical, and ethical implications of these choices are. Complex documentary concepts are presented through easily accessible language, images, and a discussion of a wide range of films and videos to encourage new ways of thinking about and seeing nonfiction film.

"Spence and Navarro create a beautiful, accessible synthesis of the ideas underpinning documentary thinking, the key scholars addressing these ideas, and a diverse filmography representing those texts. It sets the foundation for understanding the form as it has developed so far and provides a starting point for understanding the form as it will evolve in the future."