



# Living, Thinking, Looking: Essays

*Siri Hustvedt*

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## Living, Thinking, Looking: Essays Siri Hustvedt

The internationally acclaimed novelist Siri Hustvedt has also produced a growing body of nonfiction. She has published a book of essays on painting (*Mysteries of the Rectangle*) as well as an interdisciplinary investigation of a neurological disorder (*The Shaking Woman or A History of My Nerves*). She has given lectures on artists and theories of art at the Prado, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, and the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich. In 2011, she delivered the thirty-ninth annual Freud Lecture in Vienna. *Living, Thinking, Looking* brings together thirty-two essays written between 2006 and 2011, in which the author culls insights from philosophy, neuroscience, psychology, psychoanalysis, and literature.

The book is divided into three sections: the essays in *Living* draw directly from Hustvedt's life; those in *Thinking* explore memory, emotion, and the imagination; and the pieces in *Looking* are about visual art. And yet, the same questions recur throughout the collection. How do we see, remember, and feel? How do we interact with other people? What does it mean to sleep, dream, and speak? What is "the self"? Hustvedt's unique synthesis of knowledge from many fields reinvigorates the much-needed dialogue between the humanities and the sciences as it deepens our understanding of an age-old riddle: What does it mean to be human?

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