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In "Highbrow/Lowbrow: The Emergence of Cultural Hierarchy in America", Lawrence W. Levine writes, "The idea that Americans, long after they declared their political independence, retained a colonial mentality in matters of culture and intellect is a shrewd perception that deserves serious consideration " (pg. 2).

Highbrow/Lowbrow (豆瓣)

The opposite of highbrow is lowbrow, and between them is middlebrow, describing culture

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that is neither high nor low; as a usage, middlebrow is derogatory, as in Virginia Woolf's unsent letter to the New Statesman, written in the 1930s and published in The Death of the Moth and Other Essays (1942).

Highbrow/Lowbrow: The Emergence of Cultural Hierarchy in ...

Lawrence W. Levine, Highbrow /Lowbrow: The Emergence of Cultural Hierarchy in America (Cambridge & London: Harvard University Press, 1988, £19.95). Pp. 306. ISBN 0 674 39076 8. ISBN 0 674 39076 8. - Gerald Graff and Michael Warner (eds.), The Origins of Literary Study in America: A Documentary History (New York & London: Routledge, 1989, £30 ...

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"Highbrow" was first used in the 1880s to describe intellectual or aesthetic superiority, and "lowbrow" first used in 1900 to denote that which was not very refined or intellectual; both terms were derived from phrenology of racial types (221-22).

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Levine, Lawrence W. Highbrow/Lowbrow: The Emergence of Cultural Hierarchy in America. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1988. Argument Levine demonstrates the emergence of a schism in American culture towards the end of the 19th century as conductors, directors, curators, and critics began to elevate certain art.

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Levine 's Highbrow/Lowbrow shows us a period of American history when the classification of art was far less important than it is today, when an event could be both culturally important and hugely popular. Levine draws a picture of nineteenth-century America in which William Shakespeare was the most performed playwright in the nation, symphonies played popular music as much as they did the works of the great masters, and museums exhibited

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painting and sculpture alongside mastodon bones.

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Highbrow/Lowbrow: The Emergence of Cultural Hierarchy in America. In the nineteenth century Americans (in addition to whatever specific ethnic, class, and regional cultures they were part of) shared a public culture less hierarchically organized, less fragmented into relatively rigid adjectival groupings than their descendants were to experience.

Highbrow, Lowbrow: The Emergence of Cultural Hierarchy in ... Spanning over one hundred and fifty years, Lawrence W. Levine's Highbrow/Lowbrow: The Emergence of Cultural Hierarchy in America, charts the development of culture beginning in the late eighteenth century to the early twentieth century.

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