



## Image and Identity: Reflections on Canadian Film and Culture (Film and Media Studies)

R. Bruce Elder

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### Image and Identity: Reflections on Canadian Film and **Culture (Film and Media Studies)**

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Image and Identity examines the unique qualities of Canadian cinema, situating it within the broader spectrum of Canadian culture as a whole. Taking a genetic approach toward uncovering an answer to the ever-pressing Canadian question, "In reality, who are we?" Bruce Elder explores the essential features of Canadian thought and the distinctive Canadian philosophical traditions that developed in response to our particular historical and geographical circumstances. Arguing that this rich yet largely neglected tradition is still reflected in much of our current artistic practice, Elder examines the Canadian documentary tradition, English-Canadian narrative filmmaking, and the works of our cinematic avant-garde. Focusing on the particular strengths of the avant-garde cinema, and providing in-depth analyses of the works of Michael Snow, Jack Chambers, David Rimmer, and many others, he demonstrates why these internationally celebrated Canadian artists have been at the forefront of the transition from modernist to postmodernist practices.



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