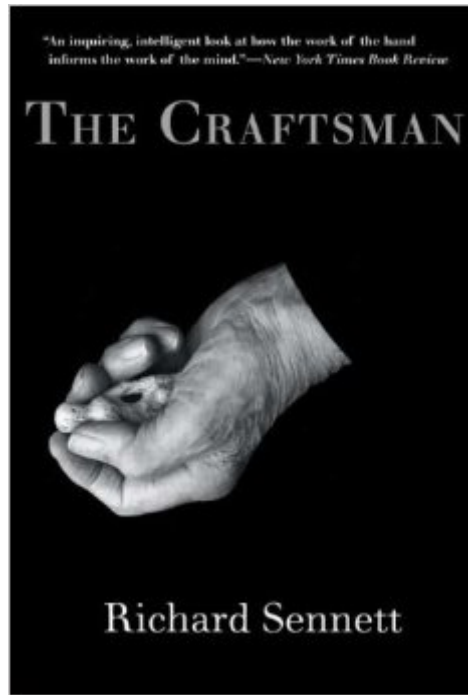


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The Craftsman



Synopsis

This text presents a philosophically-minded enquiry into the idea of craftsmanship. It is divided into three parts: addressing the craftsman at work; the development of skill; and whether motivation counts for more than talent.

Book Information

Paperback: 336 pages

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Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (35 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Richard Sennett (professor of sociology at New York University and at The London School of Economics) is vitally concerned with the devaluation of human values within the context of the new economy. We live in an age where management decisions can be very remote, and where people's jobs are displaced wholesale, moved offshore, and where human lives are measured by the bottom-line accounting of large organisations. What Sennett does is put a stake in the ground by asking rhetorically whether our commitment to work - our craftsmanship - is merely about money, or about something deeper and more human. Of course, the answer is that work commitment - the skill, the care, the late nights, the problem solving and pride that go into our work is a LOT more than about money. In this book Sennett very clearly and thoughtfully discusses the vital social currency of craftsmanship (and he uses the term in a modern sense - software programmers are craftspeople too.) The book is timely, especially in a downturn economy, and it raises many questions about how we value the people in our society. Craftspeople have been devalued of late - how we celebrate the CEO titans! - but maybe the pendulum needs to swing back the other way. A worthwhile read for managers, for HR people, for craftspeople of all stripes - and for policy makers and economists. If our society is supposed to be more value-based these days (good corporate

citizens, good global citizens) then The Craftsman urges us to look closer to home: at our own good people. Well recommended. See also:1

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