

ECLECTICISM. Eclecticism was first practiced by ancient Greek philosophers who did not attach themselves to a particular philosophical system, but selected from existing beliefs what seemed most reasonable to them. Out of this collected material they constructed their own philosophy. The term stems from the Greek 'eklektikos': **C**hoosing the best.

Some martial arts systems can be described as eclectic, in the sense that they borrow techniques from a wide variety of other arts. The martial arts method developed by Bruce Lee (1940 - 73), called Jeet Kune Do, is classified as an eclectic system.

Bruce Lee used to say: "Use what works for you, and take it from any place where you can find it."

Eclecticism favours borrowing from other systems within a free-floating framework; it encourages practitioners to incorporate into their work what's useful to them, as in the house-music scene; indeed, many - if not all - artforms subscribe to eclecticism.

Thus the concept of eclecticism also applies to my photoart as well as my approach to philosophy.

But eclecticism is eschewed by religions. Religions are rigid and not open to changes or influences from outside their doctrines. The knowledge inherent in religions is derived from revelation and ancient scriptures - inflexible and unalterable.

Quintessentially eclectic, Reality Hunger 'a manifesto', by David Shields, is my new favourite book.

The publishers call it a "... rigorous and radical attempt to reframe how we think about 'truthiness,' literary license, quotation and appropriation ..."

"The subtitle of Reality Hunger 'a manifesto' is like calling a nuclear bomb 'a weapon'," Don McLesse

38 *"In 1830, Emerson ... wanted to find what he called 'a new literature.' A German con artist, Johann Maelzel, visited America with a 'panharmonicum,' an organ without keys. He would crank its heavy silver lever three times and step off to the side and the machine would spit out an entire orchestra's worth of sound: flutes, drums, trumpets, cymbals, trombones, a triangle, clarinets, violins.*

After seeing Maelzel's machine perform, Emerson called the new literature he'd been looking for, "a panharmonicon. Here everything is admissible - philosophy, ethics, divinity, criticism, poetry, humor, fun, mimicry, anecdote, jokes, ventriloquism - all the breadth and versatility of the most liberal conversation, highest and lowest personal topics; all are permitted ..." from Reality Hunger