



The Pictures Generation, 1974-1984 (Metropolitan Museum of Art)

By Douglas Eklund

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The Pictures Generation, 1974-1984 (Metropolitan Museum of Art) By Douglas Eklund

This handsome book is the first comprehensive examination of the Pictures Generation, a loosely knit group of artists working in New York from the mid-1970s to the mid-1980s. The overarching subject of the work of these artists was imagery itself—how pictures not only depict but also shape how we perceive the world and ourselves. The collective achievement of this group is an extremely important chapter in the history of contemporary art.

Born into an expanding media and consumer culture and educated in the strategies of Minimal and Conceptual art, the artists of the Pictures Generation, including Robert Longo, Richard Prince, David Salle, and Cindy Sherman, chose to return to representation, addressing the rhetorical, social, and psychological functions of the image across all media (photography, painting and sculpture, drawings and prints, film and video, and music and performance). While the careers of these artists are typically considered in isolation, this catalogue traces their complex interrelationships and mutual development—beginning with the emergence of a group sensibility characterized by techniques of distancing and theatricality and ending with a resurgence of painting by mostly male artists (which was contested by women artists working in media such as video, photography, and installation).

Featured artists:

- Ericka Beckman
- Dara Birnbaum
- Barbara Bloom
- Eric Bogosian
- Glenn Branca
- Troy Brauntuch
- James Casebere
- Sarah Charlesworth
- Rhys Chatham
- Charlie Clough
- Nancy Dwyer
- Jack Goldstein

- Barbara Kruger
- Louise Lawler
- Thomas Lawson
- Sherrie Levine
- Robert Longo
- Allan McCollum
- Paul McMahon
- Matt Mullican
- Richard Prince
- David Salle
- Cindy Sherman
- Laurie Simmons
- Michael Smith
- James Welling
- Michael Zwack

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

A gleeful sense of irony takes center stage in this coffee table catalog of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Pictures Generation exhibition. Immersed in the political era book-ended by Nixon and Reagan, the artists here came of age during mass media's first years, and their wildly divergent experiments with Pop, minimal and conceptual art hold a common concern with social commentary, including race relations, sexuality, feminism and consumerism. Of Eklund's three essays, the Met associate curator's opener, "Image Art after Conceptualism," is the standout, examining the photographers who hailed from the then-nascent West Coast Institute of Art and made up the "CalArts Mafia." The movement concerned itself with deconstructing the myth and artifice behind stereotypical images of women and minorities, and the subtle dismantling of advertising campaigns and icons, preceding by decades the culture jamming/ad busting trend of the 1990s and 2000s. Long overdue for a retrospective, this class of artists produces a stunning collection; though the text is largely aimed at professionals or academics, this handsome volume should appeal to any reader interested in conceptual arts.

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Review

Received Honorable Mention of the 2012 New York Book Festival Award in the category of
Photography/Art
(Photography/Art Honorable Mention *New York Book Festival* 2012-06-11)

About the Author

Douglas Eklund is Associate Curator in the Department of Photographs at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jonathan Flannagan:

Reading a e-book tends to be new life style with this era globalization. With looking at you can get a lot of information that will give you benefit in your life. Together with book everyone in this world can certainly share their idea. Guides can also inspire a lot of people. A great deal of author can inspire their own reader with their story or even their experience. Not only the storyline that share in the books. But also they write about the knowledge about something that you need instance. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your young ones, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors in this world always try to improve their ability in writing, they also doing some exploration before they write on their book. One of them is this The Pictures Generation, 1974-1984 (Metropolitan Museum of Art).

Nancy Martindale:

The book untitled The Pictures Generation, 1974-1984 (Metropolitan Museum of Art) contain a lot of information on this. The writer explains her idea with easy method. The language is very clear to see all the people, so do not really worry, you can easy to read the item. The book was compiled by famous author. The author brings you in the new time of literary works. It is easy to read this book because you can keep reading your smart phone, or program, so you can read the book in anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can open their official web-site in addition to order it. Have a nice examine.

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Cheryl Cooley:

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