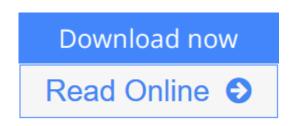


The Pictures Generation, 1974-1984 (Metropolitan Museum of Art)

By Douglas Eklund



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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
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Richard Prince
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Cindy Sherman
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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 SmithJames WellingMichael 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:

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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.

Noemi Burns:

That book can make you to feel relax. This particular book The Pictures Generation, 1974-1984 (Metropolitan Museum of Art) was vibrant and of course has pictures around. As we know that book The Pictures Generation, 1974-1984 (Metropolitan Museum of Art) has many kinds or style. Start from kids until teenagers. For example Naruto or Investigation company Conan you can read and believe you are the character on there. So , not at all of book are generally make you bored, any it offers up you feel happy, fun and relax. Try to choose the best book to suit your needs and try to like reading which.

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