

**Vile Days: The Village Voice Art Columns, 1985-1988 (Semiotext(e) / Active Agents) by Gary Indiana**

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**Vile Days: The Village Voice Art Columns, 1985-1988 (Semiotext(e) / Active Agents) Book Content Preview:**

Gary Indiana's collected columns of art criticism from the Village Voice, documenting, from the front lines, the 1980s New York art scene. In 1985, the Village Voice offered me a job as senior art critic. This made my life easier and lousy at the same time. I now had to actually enter all those galleries instead of peeking in the windows. At times, the only tangible perk was having the chump for a fifth of vodka whenever twenty more phonies had flattered my ass off in the course of a working week.—from Vile Days From March 1985 through June 1988 in The Village Voice, Gary Indiana reimagined the weekly art column. Thirty years later, Vile Days brings together for the first time all of those vivid dispatches, too long stuck in archival limbo, so that the fire of Indiana's observations can burn again. In the midst of Reaganism, the grim toll of AIDS, and the frequent jingoism of postmodern theory, Indiana found a way to be the moment's Baudelaire. He turned the art review into a chronicle of life under siege. As a critic, Indiana combines his novelistic and theatrical gifts with a startling political acumen to assess art and the unruly environments that give it context. No one was better positioned to elucidate the work of key artists at crucial junctures of their early careers, from Sherrie Levine and Richard Prince to Jeff Koons and Cindy Sherman, among others. But Indiana also remained alert to the aesthetic consequence of sumo wrestling, flower shows, public art, corporate galleries, and furniture design. Edited and prefaced by Bruce Hainley, Vile Days provides an opportunity to track Indiana's emergence as one of the most prescient writers of his generation.

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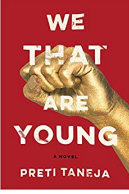
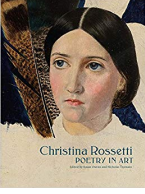

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Tags: 1980s, 19851988 (semiotext(e), 20th century art, active agents), aids, american journalism, anthologies, any, art, art & politics, art and society, art criticism, art galleries, art review, artists, bruce hainley, cindy sherman, collected works, corporate galleries, criticism & theory, fiction companions, flower shows, furniture design, gary indiana, general, general adult, history, jeff koons, journalism, language arts & disciplines, literary criticism, monograph series, new york city, non-fiction, postmodern theory, public art, readings, reaganism, richard prince, semiotext(e), sherrie levine, sumo wrestling, the arts: general issues, united states, university press, vile days: the village voice art columns

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