



David Wojnarowicz: Brush Fires in the Social Landscape: Twentieth Anniversary Edition

By David Wojnarowicz

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David Wojnarowicz's use of photography, often done in conjunction with writing or painting, was extraordinary—as was his way of addressing the AIDS crisis and issues of censorship and homophobia. *Brush Fires in the Social Landscape*, begun in collaboration with the artist before his death in 1992 and first published in 1994, engaged what Wojnarowicz would refer to as his *tribe* or community. Contributors—from artist and writer friends such as Karen Finley, Nan Goldin, Kiki Smith, Vince Aletti, C. Carr and Lucy R. Lippard, to David Cole, the lawyer who represented him in his case against Donald Wildmon and the American Family Association—together offer a compelling, provocative understanding of the artist and his work. *Brush Fires* is also the only book that features the breadth of Wojnarowicz's work with photography. Now, on the twentieth anniversary of *Brush Fires*, when interest in the artist's work has increased exponentially, this expanded and redesigned edition of this seminal publication puts the work in front of an audience all over again while maintaining the integrity of the original. Through the lens of various contributors, the book addresses Wojnarowicz's profound legacy: the relentless censorship and ethical issues, alongside his aesthetic brilliance, courage and influence.

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Editorial Review

Review

*In Aperture's new and expanded 20th-anniversary rerelease, **Brush Fires in the Social Landscape** retains every bit of the high-intensity rage, sadness, and fear that Wojnarowicz's work always had. With its focus on prejudice against gays during the time of the AIDS crisis, Wojnarowicz's work could easily feel like a time capsule, but it doesn't. –ARTnews*

It is potent, subversive, and heartbreaking –American Photo

The word undone attests to his capacity for making an emotional connection with viewers, but also to the magical way in which his art seems even now to rewrite the world by restoring that which has been written out of history. –Bookforum

Although artist David Wojnarowicz died in 1992, his work seems to have colored the complete decade of the '90s. His incendiary take on AIDS, censorship, and homophobia gave a visual momentum to a rising revolution of political and activist art and demonstration. –Advocate

*In Aperture's new and expanded 20th-anniversary rerelease, **Brush Fires in the Social Landscape** retains every bit of the high-intensity rage, sadness, and fear that Wojnarowicz's work always had. –Art News*

The artist's use of photography, at times in conjunction with text and painting, was extraordinary, as was his unprecedented way of addressing the AIDS crisis and issues of censorship, homophobia, and narrative. –The New York Public Library

From the Back Cover

Twentieth Anniversary Edition

David Wojnarowicz's use of photography was remarkably innovative, as was his unprecedented way of addressing the AIDS crisis and issues of censorship, homophobia, and narrative. *Brush Fires in the Social Landscape* began in collaboration with the artist before his death in 1992 and first published in 1994, engaged those who Wojnarowicz would refer to as his *tribe* or community. Now, on the twentieth anniversary of *Brush Fires*, when interest in the artist's work has increased exponentially, Aperture has expanded and redesigned this seminal publication to be even more inclusive. It is the only book that features the breadth of Wojnarowicz's work with photography. The contributors—from artist and writer friends to the lawyer who represented him in his case against Donald Wildmon and the American Family Association, to the next generation of artists who were influenced by Wojnarowicz's sensibility—together offer a compelling, provocative understanding of the artist and his work.

Contributors include: Vince Aletti, Barry Blinderman, Cynthia Carr, David Cole, Shannon Ebner, Leonard Fink, Karen Finley, Nan Goldin, Félix Guattari, Wade Guyton, Melissa Harris, Elizabeth Hess, Tessa Hughes-Freeland, Peter Hujar, Fran Lebowitz, Lucy R. Lippard (introduction), Sylvère Lotringer, Carlo McCormick, Henrik Olesen, Wendy Olsoff, Adam Putnam, Tom Rauffenbart, James Romberger, Emily Roysdon, Marion Scemama, Gary Schneider, Amy Scholder, Kiki Smith, Andreas Sterzing, Zoe Strauss, Marvin J. Taylor, Lynne Tillman, and Wolfgang Tillmans.

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