

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

To Download this book in many format Visit :

<https://wocoentala.org/source1/5bd3cac373e6fc15d6a3bf8540e57fec>

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.

Gary Indiana is a novelist, playwright, critic, essayist, filmmaker, and artist. Hailed by the Guardian as "one of the most important chroniclers of the modern psyche," and by the Observer as "one of the most woefully underappreciated writers of the last 30 years," he published a memoir, *I Can Give You Anything But Love*, in 2015. He is also the author of *Three Month Fever: The Andrew Cunanan Story* and *Resentment: A Comedy* (both published by Semiotext(e)).

As well as offering shrewd judgments of artists whose stature has only grown since-Indiana can be equally fervent and persuasive in his analyses of the brilliant, the charlatans, and all those in between-he frequently used the column as a space for experimentation, both formal and philosophical. An intellectual with a precise sense of history, he nonetheless writes with a quality he ascribes to Kathy Acker in one of the articles here: "a liberating, combative irreverence and glee" that puts many other critics to shame.

-Harper's Magazine

A thought-provoking read.

-Art Agenda

It is... impossible to read the columns without savoring their radioactive wit and aphoristic intelligence.

-Boston Review

Vile Days is a jolting reminder that there were once prominent critics who viewed the dominant culture of their day not with occasional skepticism but permanent hostility.

-Artforum

Other Books

Girl's Guide To Hunting & Fishing.

? ? ? ? ? .