

For Editorial Consideration
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Art Life: Selected Writings 1991 - 2005

By Lawrence Rinder
With a Preface by Bill Arning

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Art Life: Selected Writings 1991–2005 brings together for the first time in a single publication many of the important essays on contemporary art written over the past 15 years by Lawrence Rinder, one of America’s most influential curators. This significant publication, which combines intellectual rigor with accessible prose, is an exciting and welcome reminder, especially in today’s market-driven art world, that contemporary art can and should be experienced as a natural part of *all* of our lives.

The collected essays in *Art Life* address a range of contemporary practices—from painting and drawing to internet art and video installation. Rinder’s clear, jargon-free writing style, in conjunction with a well-chosen selection of nearly 100 full-color images, both demystifies and deepens our understanding of some of the most compelling artists, art works and art trends of the past few decades. “In my professional practice, I have found that it is indeed much more pleasant, and useful, to wonder than to know,” writes Rinder in his introduction to *Art Life*. A broad spectrum of readers—from those simply curious about contemporary art to students, critics, and artists themselves—will find Rinder’s essays refreshing, eye-opening, and illuminating. Louise Bourgeois, Sophie Calle, Martin Creed, Jim Drain, Mark Lombardi, Jack Smith, and Luc Tuymans are among the many artists whose work Rinder discusses in a pivotal collection destined to set a new standard for writing about contemporary art.

“As I read Rinder, I feel that he is a trusted friend, and that we are tussling through run-on discussions of each show we are seeing over the course of a long day of gallery-going and museum visiting. . . . The joy of such fellow-traveling is to experience art together, as a catalyst for fully engaged discussions on art and culture and life that can lead anywhere and everywhere,” writes Bill Arning, curator of the MIT List Visual Arts Center, in his preface to *Art Life*.

Rinder, formerly the Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Curator of Contemporary Art at the Whitney Museum of American Art and Chief Curator of the 2002 Whitney Biennial, is currently Dean of Graduate Studies at the California College of the Arts in San Francisco. He recently received the National Art Critics Award from the U.S. Chapter of the International Association of Art Critics (AICA/USA) for his mid-career retrospective of the works of Tim Hawkinson, which opened at the

Whitney Museum in February 2005 before traveling to The Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Rinder is working on his first novel.

Founded in 2004, Gregory R. Miller & Co. publishes high quality books about contemporary art and artists. These books aim not only to enhance our understanding and appreciation of art, but also to make a contribution to the broader cultural dialogue, of which contemporary art is an essential part. Recent publications include Ellen Harvey's *New York Beautification Project*, which documented Harvey's experience "tagging" graffiti sites around New York City with her original classically-inspired oil landscapes, and *Lyle Ashton Harris*, which paired a major series of new self-portrait photographs by the artist with an essay by Anna Deavere Smith. Forthcoming publications include monographs of the artists Ann Hamilton (essay by Joan Simon), Dana Hoey (essay by Gretchen Rubin), Marilyn Minter (essay by Johanna Burton), and Amy Sillman (essay by Wayne Koestenbaum). Gregory R. Miller & Co. books are distributed by D.A.P./Distributed Art Publishers.

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