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Occasional Work And Seven Walks From The Office For Soft Architecture: Third Edition

Occasional Work and Seven Walks from the Office for Soft Architecture | Lisa Robertson

If place is always retrospective, how do we begin? With blatant flaws. Place of cringing. Place where the awnings shelter political loss. Inefficient place of tents, structures and objects. Tarpaulin of place, and blanket. Belief is expensive. Nothing authorizes place to speak. Not the putrefaction. Not the pruning. Not the cold ache. Carved into the sidewalk at this place: Free Coke for Supermodels and Aloha Betty. Place where the tired people make stained records of passivity. Place of what is to come, place that shows us, among the degradation of conditions, to be capable, to achieve a flawed vision. We live on top of this place fragile and overlapping, the time pouring through and moulding, from the inside, our body. We walk in our garments and our governments towards the errors in humanism, the bungled asphalt roofing torn by pigeons' feet and patched with tar. Our feet are pigeons with leisure of pigeons tearing holes in the rooms made of pollen and chance and noise, the rooms that are streets. We are pigeons. We are disobedient. Some of us are paperless. In this place those without papers carry all the civic emotion. This is called service. Even the most passionate resistances register as components of immeasurable repetition extending outwards from the body in all directions, like a tilework. This is a market. Always its scale is wrong. Thus we are introduced to our bodies, fashioning and adoring, cladding and coating, and the synthesis of our emoting minds is an environment. Beyond topography the sky purples. We have called it purple. We were standing outdoors in our bodies. We called hey Steve. We come here plainly and openly to be part of what change is. This is our face.



Synopsis

This delectable book collects the rococo prose of Lisa Robertson. There are essays – many originally published as catalogue texts by art galleries – on the syntax of the suburban home, Vancouver fountains, Value Village, the joy of synthetics, scaffolding and the persistence of the Himalayan blackberry. It makes for one of the most intriguing books youââ ¬â,¢ll ever read.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The guide to the 13 works and seven "walks" of this little book (4 1/8" $\tilde{A}f\hat{a}$ "5 7/8") is the "Office for Soft Architecture"-the alter ego of Canadian poet Robertson, author of Debbie: An Epic and The Weather. Seeking "the place in the polis of the sour heat and the pulse beneath our coats, the specific entry of our exhalations and words into the atmosphere," Robertson probes various fabrics, cities, rooms, people, histories and "the reaching middle," showing how life, in the way it uses space and time, is "soft architecture." Throughout, color and b&w photos and illustrations provide visual context for site-specific prose perambulations: a set of postcards of Vancouver sights graffiti-ed with spouting water lead to "The Fountain Transcript" ("Corporate fountains drooling goofily. Public fools."); photos of temporary scalable structures interspersed with Elspeth Pratt's sculptures situate "Doubt and the History of Scaffolding

'We say, on almost every page and with utmost reverence, Holy shit. $\tilde{A}\phi\hat{a} - \hat{A}|$ Ever since, we have wanted to think like Robertson, write like her, maybe even be her.' $\tilde{A}\phi\hat{a} - \hat{a}$ ∞ Village Voice, listing it

as a top pick of 2004

This book is great. It's fun, it's factual, the writing style is as great as it is unusual. I got this book for a class, but it's something I'd consider buying for a friend.

Brilliant. Purchase immediately!

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