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Felix Gonzales-Torres



Synopsis

Born in Cuba, Felix Gonzalez-Torres is best known for public artworks which invite the viewer's participation. In this publication, illustrated with video and performance stills and reproductions; the artist talks about his commitment to social change and the role of the artist in society. One of the few indepth publications on this pivotal conceptual artist. Limited edition of 200. Dimension: 8 3/8 x 12 1/2 inches, 63 b&w and color reproductions.

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Customer Reviews

Cuban-born Gonzalez-Torres is probably best known for his potent billboard project, in which austere photographs of an empty, rumpled, white bed were placed at over 20 locations around New York City to serve as reminders of the dogged AIDS crisis. The artist does not confine himself to one medium, however. Gonzalez-Torres has exhibited text paintings, designed photographic jigsaw puzzles, enlisted live gallery performers, and created sculpture in the form of stacks of paper, which viewers are invited to take away. On the surface, his work is reminiscent of the minimalists, but form is not his exclusive concern. His pieces function as three-dimensional poetry that, above all, requires a public to engage it. Part of the publisher's series highlighting emerging artists, this book catalogs most of the artist's recent work in the form of handsome photodocumentation.

Accompanying texts include an introduction by Susan Cahill and an extended conversation with fellow artist Tim Rollins. Though not especially provocative, the discussion is appealing for its tone of two friends casually but genuinely discussing lofty artistic concepts. Certainly not the last book on this fine young artist, this is a fine summation of his career so far. Recommended for large art

The Tim Rollins interview is probably one of the best texts written about/with FGT. This is the second time I bought this book. It made me so happy that I gave my previous copy to one of my best friends.

Felix Gonzales-Torres (1957-1996) was a many-sided artist. He uses photographs, A1 sheets of paper stacked one upon the other, light bulbs (white not colored) and even large amounts of candy wrappers with the same colour. He has everything of a minimal art performer and yet the materials he uses (albeit not at the same time) and the different ways of displaying his art (walls of buildings, corridors, rooms and staircases) are so complex that it would be laughable to call his work 'minimal art'. If it's necessary to give him a name I would call him an explorer. I believe it's the purpose of an artist to search what lies beyond the horizon. I believe also in the value of abstract art. It emphasizes the essence of what we see: colour, shape and the different relations between one and the other. Art with artificial light is the fascinating area between abstract painting and sculpture. Only a few artists so far, had the courage to walk that borderline and one of them was Gonzales-Torres. His 'light-art' is simple (He uses for instance only burning white lamps). For example a large corridor in a modern building has several garlands of light against one wall, or strings of white lights attached to the ceiling and pouring down like rain to the floor to form a pool of light. If you want to know all about Gonzales and his different forms of art, please read the fascinating book " Felix Gonzales-Torres " by William Bartsman and others.

Beautiful book, what a great artist. Great interview.

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