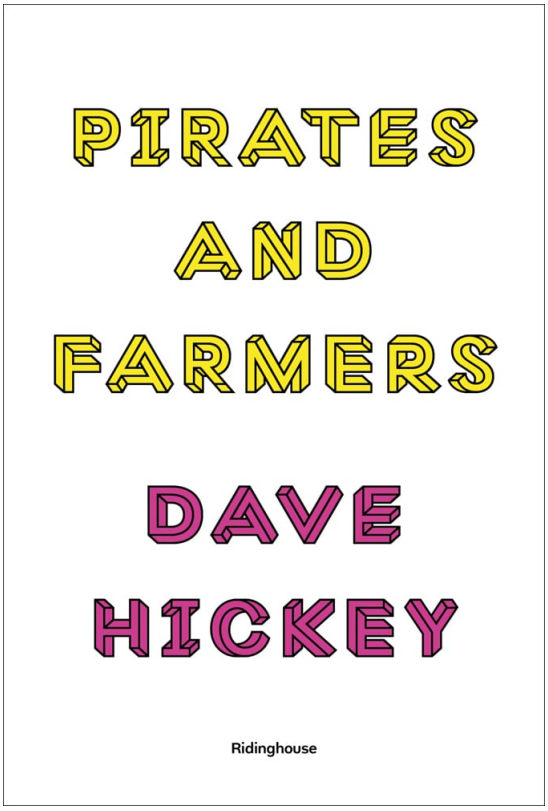
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Tel: +44 (0) 1394 389950
Email: uksales@accartbooks.com
Web: https://www.accartbooks.com/uk



Pirates and Farmers

Essays on Taste

Dave Hickey

ISBN	9781905464722
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Territory	World excluding USA & Canada
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Pages	190 Pages
Illustrations	15 color
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- Essays by one of the most astute art critics of the past 50 years, on subjects such as the art biennale, academia, formalism, artistic quality and the power of influence
- Dave Hickey rails against the absurdities of the art world in a book that is just as relevant today as it was on publication 10 years ago
- A writer with a cult following, Hickey died in 2021

"As an art critic, [Hickey] doesn't do what most people want from art criticism. He doesn't provide his readers with a neat intellectual framework through which to view everything they see, like a Clement Greenberg or a Michael Fried, and he doesn't really do beautiful description either … Instead, Hickey gives you intricately structured argument and gorgeous prose … Reading him you want to forget that the art market is a game of Hungry Hungry Hippos between Ukrainian oligarchs and Qatari princesses … You want to be the thing you advocate; you want to ride the wave, mount the dais, and speak the truth." – **Los Angeles Review of Books**

Arguably one of the most astute critics working today, Dave Hickey's multi-decade career as a leading cultural commentator is characterised by his blend of high and mass culture and his fervent critique of the celebrity-driven culture of the 21st-century art world. Following his 2012 announcement of self-imposed exile from art criticism, this new body of essays once again questions and challenges the cultural status quo. With his trademark humour, Hickey has declared that: 'I miss being an elitist and not having to talk to idiots' in a field that, he believes, is defined by the commoditisation of art and the self-referential tendencies of criticism itself. This new body of shorter essays by the author of *Air Guitar: Essays on Art & Democracy* and *The Invisible Dragon: Four Essays on Beauty* looks at more contemporary phenomena: super-collectors, the trope of the biennale and the loss of looking.

Dave Hickey (1938–2021) was arguably one of the most astute art critics of recent times. His multi-decade career as a leading cultural commentator earned him the nickname 'the *enfant terrible* of art criticism'. He wrote for major publications in the United States, from *Rolling Stone* to *Art in America* and the *New York Times*, as well as for *frieze*, *Parkett* and the *London Review of Books* in Europe. His book *Air Guitar: Essays on Art and Democracy* was a memoir of 'love songs for people who live in a democracy'. Hickey was awarded a MacArthur 'genius grant' in 2001.

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