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



Robert Mars Futurelics

Past is Present

DTR Modern Art Galleries

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- The first publication of contemporary pop artist Robert Mars' collage art, intertwines notions of legacy and identity in his Futurelics Popforms

Robert Mars Futurelics: Past is Present is the first publication of the work of contemporary artist Robert Mars that earned comparisons with Andy Warhol, Robert Rauschenberg, Richard Diebenkorn, James Rosenquist, and other Pop Art masters. Taking inspiration from the golden age of American popular culture and the iconography of the 1950s and 60s, Mars employs a rich colour palette in collage art. Often tongue-in-cheek, his signature neon *Futurelics Popforms* pay homage to the power of iconic branding, gripping beauty, and whimsical imagery cultivated by the urgent pressures that evolved from post-WWII to the present. Mars' optimism recalls a time when instant digital celebrity was inconceivable – when people lived with the myth of uniquely untouchable icons – the Futurelics – Marilyn Monroe, Elizabeth Taylor, James Dean, Audrey Hepburn, Elvis Presley, and many others. Futurelics are what have lasting impact – what births a legacy, larger than life, larger than lifestyle. That is Futurelics.

Ted Vassilev is the president and founder of DTR Modern Galleries, with locations in Boston, New York, Palm Beach, and Washington, DC. **Eleanor Heartney** is an art critic based in New York City. Author of over 20 art books, including *Postmodernism: Movements in Modern Art*, she is a contributing editor to *Art in America* and *Artpress* and has written extensively on contemporary art issues for publications such as *Artnews*, *Art and Auction*, the *New Art Examiner*, the *Washington Post*, and the *New York Times*. **Bruce Helander** is an art critic, former Editor-in-Chief of the *Art Economist* and contributor to the art and style section of the *Huffington Post*. As a collage and assemblage artist, his work is in over fifty museum collections, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, Brooklyn Museum, Smithsonian, Art Institute of Chicago, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Whitney Museum of American Art, and Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) in Los Angeles. His work has been the subject of 100 reviews and articles in numerous publications, including *Art in America*, *ARTnews*, and the *Washington Post*. **Donald Kuspit** is an emeritus professor of art history and philosophy at SUNY Stony Brook. He is a contributing editor at *Artforum and Percontra*, and the author of dozens of books on art, including his most recent, *A Critical History of Modern Art*.

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