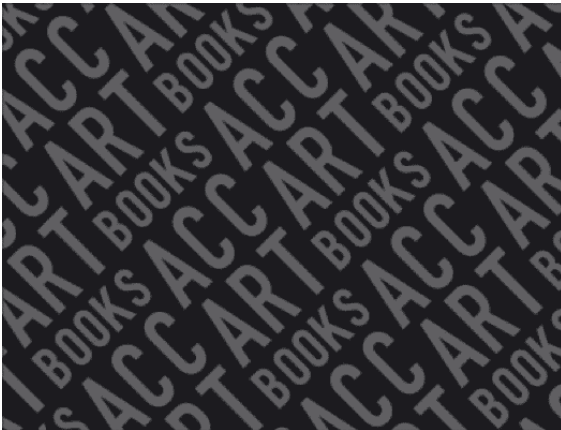




Lowbrow Art. Pop Surrealism

Edited by Anne Richard

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- An in-depth study of a little-known art form
- Portraits and exclusive interviews with Robert Williams, Joe Coleman, Todd Schorr, Mark Ryden, and gallery owner Merry Karnowsky
- Contributions from various experts—historians, comic book theorists, art critics
- A layout as original as the subject

This book is a comprehensive and in-depth study devoted to Lowbrow Art and Pop Surrealism, two artistic movements that originated in the United States and have profoundly transformed the contemporary art scene. Since the late 1960s, American artist Robert Williams has developed a radical and nonconformist style of painting, drawing inspiration from underground comics, hot rod culture, tattoo art, psychedelic posters, and carnival arts—all fields long ignored or disparaged by the fine arts world. Richly documented and generously illustrated, this book traces the history of this countercultural movement through four major periods, from 1850 to the present day, exploring its profound influences and its gradual global reach. It spotlights the movement's pioneering figures through portraits and exclusive interviews with Robert Williams, Joe Coleman, Todd Schorr, Mark Ryden, and gallery owner Merry Karnowsky—true witnesses and participants in this artistic revolution. The book also addresses the emergence of Pop Surrealism in the 1990s—a new label that both broadened and challenged the boundaries of Lowbrow Art—before the movement went global in the 2000s, thanks in large part to *Juxtapoz* magazine, which by 2009 had become the most widely circulated art magazine in the United States.

Anne Richard has been a specialist in fringe arts and alternative cultures since 1986. She served as a comic book critic for eighteen years on France Inter. After directing several documentaries on music and comics in the 1990s, she founded the bilingual art magazine *HEY! modern art & pop culture* in 2010. In addition to her work as an author, editor, and performer, she has curated exhibitions, including *Tatoueurs, Tatoués* (Musée du Quai Branly, Paris, 2014). In preparation for the exhibition *HEY! ROBERT WILLIAMS – Révolution.s dans l'art* at the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Nancy (opening April 2027)—which will open in conjunction with the publication of the book **Lowbrow Art, Surrealism Pop—From California's Underground Scene to Globalized Art*—she is curating a major new exhibition for the Musée du Quai Branly (opening in 2028/2029). **Kirsten Anderson**, a lecturer and author specializing in Lowbrow Art and Pop Surrealism, founded the Roq La Rue art gallery (Seattle, United States). **Zoé Forget** holds a Ph.D. in Aesthetics, Science, and Arts Technologies; she is a lecturer at Paris 8 University and a member of RETiiNA.International. A member of *HEY! modern art & pop culture* since 2011, she is also an artist and photographer. **Thierry Groensteen** is a comic book historian and theorist. As an editor of journals and exhibition curator, he is the author of several books on comics. **Laurent Martin** is a professor of history at Sorbonne-Nouvelle / Paris 3 University and specializes in the cultural history of the contemporary world (history of media, censorship, cultural policies, and inter- and transnational cultural relations). He has published several books on the subject. **Philippe Thieyre** has worked as a record store owner, bookseller, and publisher, as well as a journalist, radio commentator, and festival programmer.

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