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# SIGLIO LEAVES LOS ANGELES AND HEADS TO THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY

We celebrate with a marathon reading at Hudson's Read & Feed Festival of John Cage's

## DIARY: HOW TO IMPROVE THE WORLD (YOU WILL ONLY MAKE MATTERS WORSE)

On **Saturday, July 30, from 5-11 p.m.**, twenty-five poets, writers, musicians, composers, artists and even a master puppeteer will read the entirety of Siglio's 20th title—John Cage's *Diary: How to Improve the World (You Will Only Make Matters Worse)* at the first annual **Read & Feed Festival at the Basilica Hudson** with a simultaneous live broadcast on WGXC 90.7. As the book is typeset in various fonts and colors, the readers will alternate with each change in the text, in a dynamic synthesis of language, voice, and the visual. A complete list of participants and more info about the reading at: <http://sigliopress.com/marathon-reading>

In addition to the reading, the festival will feature local, artisanal food makers and more than twenty small press publishers and literary magazines (including Siglio, Fence, Nightboat Books, The Song Cave and Ugly Duckling Presse). Organized by CLMP (the Community of Literary Magazines and Small Press), the festival will also have a conversation series that traverses the literary and the alimentary—renowned authors Lydia Davis and Lynne Tillman, for example, will be leading a wine tasting! Tickets are \$20 in advance (\$25 at the door) and include a \$5 voucher towards the purchase from any small press. More info at: <http://basilicahudson.org/read-feed>

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**Founded in Los Angeles in 2008, Siglio has thrived on the West Coast, with almost two dozen titles to date on its unusual and eclectic list.** Siglio books—authored by both renowned and little known writers and artists—have earned devoted fans and critical acclaim from established and alternative media (such as the *New York Times*, *New Yorker*, *London Review of Books*, *Times Literary Supplement*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Art in America*, *Los Angeles Times* as well as *Bookforum*, *N+1*, *Hyperallergic*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, and *The Believer*, among many others).

**Relocating to the Hudson River Valley later this summer, Siglio will continue to pursue its mission to publish inimitable works that resist categorization and live in the rich and varied space between art and literature.**

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**Holland Cotter in the NEW YORK TIMES:** *Over 16 years, beginning in 1965, John Cage compiled anecdotes, observations and koanlike tales, originally typing everything on an IBM Selectric and using chance methods to determine the formatting of texts that twist down each page. The Siglio edition preserves his graphic effects, but, more important, it gives a sense of the company he kept during these years—Marcel Duchamp, R. Buckminster Fuller, D.T. Suzuki—and of his passionate feelings about a world locked in a state of perpetual warfare. Cage has a reputation for being a Zen-inspired wit. He was also much more, an intensely engaged moral thinker.*

MORE →

John Cage's *Diary: How to Improve the World (You Will Only Make Matters Worse)* is one of his most prescient and personal works. **A repository of observations, anecdotes, proclivities, obsessions, jokes and koan-like stories, *Diary* registers Cage's assessment of the times in which he lived as well as his often uncanny portents about the world we live in now.** This beautiful hardcover edition from Siglio collects all eight parts for the first time, rendering the entire text in color.

**With a great sense of play as well as purpose, Cage traverses vast territory, from the domestic minutiae of everyday life to ideas about how to feed the world.** Originally typed on an IBM Selectric, Cage used chance operations to determine not only the word count and the application of various typefaces but also the number of letters per line, the patterns of indentation, and—in the case of Part Three published as a Great Bear Pamphlet by Something Else Press—color. **The unusual visual variances on the page become almost musical as language takes on a physical and aural presence.**

While Cage used chance operations to expand the possibilities of creating and shaping his work beyond the limitations of individual taste and perspective, ***Diary* nonetheless accumulates into a complex reflection of Cage's own particular sensibilities as a thinker and citizen of the world, illuminating his social and political awareness, as well as his idealism and sense of humor: it becomes an oblique but indelible portrait of one the most influential figures of the 20th century American avant-garde.**

**Nicole Rudick on the PARIS REVIEW DAILY:** *I read these sentences a half dozen times, stopping after each read to consider a new meaning that appeared before me, like an ever-expanding horizon. In fact, most sentences in John Cage's Diary: How to Improve the World (You Will Only Make Matters Worse) took several readings to get through. But these fragments of opinions and problems, worries and joys are meant to be meditative, and working through them recalibrates the reader's perspective. Shifts between typefaces, indentations, and colors make a collage of the text, and there is little sense of where one entry ends and the next begins, which produces wonderfully unexpected juxtapositions.*

***The Selected Letters of John Cage*, edited by Laura Kuhn, director of the John Cage Trust, has just been released by Wesleyan University Press** earlier this summer. Together, these two books—*Diary* and the newly published letters—accumulate into something akin to autobiography, thus providing an unprecedented view into Cage and the world with which he so deeply engaged. More info at: <http://www.upne.com/0819575913>

**Diary: How to Improve the World (You Will Only Make Matters Worse)** by John Cage, published by Siglio.  
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