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## **The Nancy Book** by Joe Brainard

\$39.50 CASEBOUND 9-3/4 x 7-1/2 144 PAGES 78 FULL PAGE ILL. (46 COLOR, 32 B/W)  
ISBN 978-0-9799562-0-1 PUB DATE: APRIL 30, 2008 PUBLISHED BY SIGLIO PRESS

*Joe Brainard's pursuit of the once ubiquitous fuzzy-haired pest Nancy chronicled one of the great love-hate relationships in American popular culture. It's wonderful to have it all between the covers of a book.*

—John Ashbery

From 1963 to 1978 Joe Brainard (author of *I Remember*) created more than one hundred works of art that appropriated the classic comic strip character Nancy and sent her into an astonishing variety of spaces, all electrified and complicated by the incongruity of her presence.

In *The Nancy Book*, Joe Brainard's Nancy traverses high art and low, the poetic and pornographic, the surreal and the absurd. Whether inserted into hypothetical situations, dispatched on erotic adventures, or seemingly rendered by the hands of artists as varied as Leonardo da Vinci, R. Crumb, Larry Rivers, Pablo Picasso, and Willem de Kooning, Brainard's Nancy revels in as well as transcends her two-dimensionality.

*The Nancy Book* is the long-awaited, first ever collection of Brainard's Nancy texts, drawings, collages and paintings, with full page reproductions in color and b/w. *The Nancy Book* features several works that have neither been published nor publicly exhibited.

*The Nancy Book* includes several collaborations with luminary poets, including "Personal Nancy Love," a very early Ted Berrigan—Joe Brainard comic collaboration; a Nancy collage made with Frank O'Hara in 1964; the infamous (and raunchy) "Recent Visitors," created with Bill Berkson in the summer of 1971 in Bolinas; an excerpt from "The Class of '47," a collaboration with Robert Creeley; as well as works made with Ron Padgett, James Schuyler and Frank Lima from the ground-breaking *C Comics 2*.

*The Nancy Book* also includes a reminiscence by Ron Padgett as well as an original essay by Ann Lauterbach that locates, with poetic and critical acumen, the matrix of relationships that informed Brainard's work, illuminating the Nancy works in particular.

*Every page of this book will make you smile or laugh—not with recognition but with startled joy. Joe Brainard took an unchanging icon of the American Norm and inserted her into countless fashionable and scandalous contexts, subtly metamorphosing something that seemed eternal into absurdly contemporary forms. He is as funny as only a philosopher can be.*

—Edmund White

**MORE**

A new generation was introduced to Brainard's work through the 2001 Berkeley Art Museum retrospective and the Granary Books reprint of *I Remember*. Thrilled by the discovery of such extraordinary progenitor, Brainard's new fans have a keen and persistent appetite for his work. They recognize that Brainard's unerring aesthetic coupled with his pop art sensibilities, Dada-ish, anarchic humor, and his deft use of appropriation and collage anticipated many current trends in literature and art.

Discerning readers unfamiliar with Brainard but familiar with the Nancy of the eponymous comic strip by Ernie Bushmiller will also be riveted by this joyful subversion. And, of course, *The Nancy Book* will also hold great interest to various audiences of Pop Art, queer culture, avant-garde comics, post-modern narrative, New York School poetry, and the downtown New York literary and art scene of the 60s and 70s.

A beguiling balance of mischief and innocence, irreverence and wonder, spontaneity and calculation, Brainard's Nancys accumulate into a complex work of great originality and wit, equal parts surprise and subtlety. *The Nancy Book* will appeal to the legions of Brainard devotees who have been anticipating the next publication, as well as generate new enthusiasm for his work in a deeply eclectic audience.

**LIMITED EDITION:** A concurrent limited edition of 100 includes a hand-pulled photo-lithograph of *Untitled (Nancy with Gun)*, numbered and stamped by the Estate of Joe Brainard, housed in a foil-stamped portfolio and slip-cased with the trade edition of *The Nancy Book*. The price is \$450.

**EVENTS:** Paul Auster, Ann Lauterbach and Ron Padgett will read selections of Joe Brainard's work at a reception, May 1, 6-8 p.m. at the Tibor de Nagy Gallery. In celebration of *The Nancy Book*, the Tibor de Nagy Gallery has arranged an exhibition of Joe Brainard's Nancy works April 10-May 17, 2008. The gallery is located at 724 Fifth Avenue, NY, NY 10019. More events to be announced at a later date.

**REVIEW COPY** and/or a complete **PRESS KIT** are available upon request. For essays about Joe Brainard by Ann Lauterbach, Edmund White and John Ashbery as well as links to further resources on the web, go to [www.sigliopress.com/library/joebrainard.htm](http://www.sigliopress.com/library/joebrainard.htm).

**JOE BRAINARD** (1942-1994) left Tulsa at eighteen for New York City and soon became a part of the thriving downtown art scene and the New York School of poets and painters. Over his career, Brainard created a prodigious body of work, distinguished by its rare alchemy of sensuality and precision, sophistication and sweetness. Admired for his writing as well as his visual art, Brainard wrote the legendary and beloved memoir *I Remember*, which was hailed as "a masterpiece" by Paul Auster and inspired George Perec's *Je me souviens*. Brainard's drawings, assemblages, collages, and paintings are in private and museum collections, including those of the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Whitney Museum of America Art, and in 2001 a major retrospective was curated by the Berkeley Art Museum.

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