

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JANUARY 8, 2014

CONTACT: LISA PEARSON publisher@sigliopress.com SIGLIO 2432 MEDLOW AVE, LA, CA 90041 P: 310-857-6935

NEW THIS SPRING: “A DARK CIRCUS OF THE VERY BEST KIND” with launch events at the LA ART BOOK FAIR and PRINTED MATTER in NYC

HERE COMES KITTY: A COMIC OPERA

by Richard Kraft with Danielle Dutton and a conversation with Ann Lauterbach

PUB DATE: **APRIL 1, 2015** \$32 HB 8.375 x 11.5 64 pages full color throughout ISBN: 978-1-938221-08-8
PDF available now. **Hard copy advances Jan. 5.** All Siglio titles are distributed to the trade by ARTBOOK/D.A.P. and available at www.sigliopress.com

An excerpt from *Here Comes Kitty: A Comic Opera* appears in the Winter 2014 issue of *BOMB Magazine*.

In this wildly irreverent collage narrative, artist Richard Kraft reassembles a Cold War comic about a Polish spy infiltrating the Nazis to orchestrate a multiplicity of voices into joyous cacophony. Like an Indian miniature painting, each comic book page is densely layered, collapsing foreground and background, breaking the frame and merging time. An unlikely and enormous cast of characters emerges as Kraft appropriates images and texts from an extraordinary variety of sources (the Amar Chitra Katha comics of Hindu mythology, Jimmy Swaggart’s Old and New Testament stories, the 1960s English football annual *Scorcher*, and underground porn comics like *Cherry* as well as images from art history, outdated encyclopedias, and more).

Proceeding from Thoreau’s observation, “Yes and No are lies. A true answer will not aim to establish anything, but rather to set all well afloat,” Kraft subverts all certainty to reconstruct a world constantly in flux, rich with dark humor and its own revelatory nonsense. Author Danielle Dutton’s set of sixteen interpolations punctuate the book using similar strategies of appropriation and juxtaposition to create texts that sing in the same arresting register as Kraft’s collages. *Here Comes Kitty* also includes a wide-ranging conversation between Kraft and poet Ann Lauterbach.

RICHARD KRAFT is an artist whose multidisciplinary works whose recent solo exhibitions include *Which Is to Say* (2014), a ten-channel video installation at the Laguna Art Museum, *Tube Portraits* (2013) and *Something with Birds in It* (2011) both at Charlie James Gallery in Los Angeles. A large-scale, public performance art work “One Hundred Walkers” has been commissioned by the City of West Hollywood and will take place in April 2015. Publications include *In the Air*, a collaborative chapbook with Peter Gizzi, (Manor House, 2013). Kraft is also co-editing the first complete volume of John Cage’s *Diary: How to Improve the World (You Will Only Make Matter Worse)*, out from Siglio in 2015. Kraft was born and raised in London and now lives in Los Angeles.

DANIELLE DUTTON is the author of *S P R A W L* (Siglio), *Attempts at a Life* (Tarpaulin Sky) and editor of *Dorothy*, a publishing project. Her work has appeared in *Bomb*, *Harper’s*, *Fence*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, *Noon* and *jubilat*, among others. She is currently a professor in the English department at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri where she lives with her husband and son.

PRAISE FOR HERE COMES KITTY

Here Comes Kitty reaches out in all sorts of ways like a compendium of the postmodern without pretentiousness which—despite combining humor, the erotic, the gothic, the wry, the popular and the sophisticated—tells a tight tale with wild invention and makes you want both to turn the pages and dwell on the images.

—TOM PHILLIPS
artist/author of *A Humument*

Monumental incongruities—dazzling composition. Richard Kraft and Danielle Dutton have created a riot of images and words. The exuberance is contagious. A delight. A must.

—ROSMARIE WALDROP
author of *Driven to Abstraction*

You cannot look away. Or leave. *Here Comes Kitty* is a dark circus of the very best kind: bright “damage” on every page. It pierces the heart with its mixture of love and going.

—BHANU KAPIL
author of *Schizophrene*

MORE →

Danielle Dutton writes in the Winter issue of BOMB Magazine:

Kraft takes Kapitan Kloss, a pre-perestroika comic book about a Polish spy who infiltrates the Nazis, and bombs the plot with elephants on bicycles, white rabbits, Hindu goddesses, bugs, birds, a smattering of porn, and other interruptions. Yet amid the cacophony of collage, there is also, here, a baseline of story marching on: again and again the soldiers, the trucks. Isn't it a natural impulse to want to follow that line? Soon we feel that even Kraft's interruptions are gathering narrative force: again and again that rabbit, the goddesses' hands. Yet as one page compels us to the next, each simultaneously becomes a universe of its own. Subverting becomes telling, bombs become themes, and narrative turns itself sideways, upside-down. As Copernicus said on his deathbed: "It moves!"

LOS ANGELES

Collage on the Page and in the Street: Richard Kraft in Conversation with Andrew Berardini

At Printed Matter's **LA Art Book Fair** at MOCA Geffen Contemporary
Sunday, February 1 at 2 - 3 p.m. in "The Classroom" (free and open to the public)

Los Angeles artist Richard Kraft uses both public spaces (library aisles, sides of buses, city streets, cow pastures, abandoned airforce bases) and the space of the book and the page to disassemble the familiar and to reconstruct worlds in flux. Kraft will discuss two current projects that span both kinds of spaces with critic and *The Art Book Review* editor Andrew Berardini. "One Hundred Walkers, West Hollywood" is a large-scale performance work that will take place in April with one hundred volunteer performers wearing bowler hats, suits and sandwich boards (each with a different image/text) and walking individual routes to create a kind of ever-transforming collage, with and within the city. It will be the largest iteration of his Walkers series piece to date. Kraft's artist's book *Here Comes Kitty: A Comic Opera* (Siglio, 2015) takes a Cold War comic about a Polish spy infiltrating the Nazis and uses collage to subvert and rearrange the narrative. Signed copies of *Here Comes Kitty* will be available for sale, and a small model of the walkers will be on display at the Siglio table #10 in Room O. The Geffen Contemporary is at 152 North Central Avenue.

NEW YORK CITY

**A Celebration for the release of *Here Comes Kitty: A Comic Opera*
Albert Mobilio in Conversation with Richard Kraft and Danielle Dutton**

Thursday, February 12 at 6 p.m. at Printed Matter (free and open to the public)

The evening will start with artist Richard Kraft and writer Danielle Dutton in conversation with poet, critic and *Bookforum* editor Albert Mobilio about *Here Comes Kitty: A Comic Opera*, followed by a reception. A selection of *Here Comes Kitty* collages will also be on display. Signed copies will be available, and each purchase will receive a little collection of Kraft's Siglio multiples, available only at this event!

Printed Matter is located at 195 10th Avenue, New York, NY 10011. Phone: 212-925-0325.

END

siglio is an independent press in Los Angeles dedicated to publishing uncommon books that live at the intersection of art and literature. Siglio books are cross-disciplinary, hybrid works that subvert paradigms, defy categorization and reveal unexpected connections. We believe that challenging work can be immensely appealing: our books are as much a pleasure to touch and hold as they are to read.