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American Genius, A Comedy American Genius Romantic Presences in the Twentieth Century MOTHERCARE No Lease on Life Motion Sickness Haunted Houses Bomb: The Author Interviews Cast in Doubt After Postmodernism The American Novel Now Electric Literature No. 5 The Dream of the Great American Novel Men and Apparitions Postmodernism, Twenty-First Century Culture, and American Fiction The Trouble with Post-Blackness Telex from Cuba All the World's a Grave Bomb Jonathan Franzen at the End of Postmodernism Why Art Criticism? A Reader Tender Is the Night and F. Scott Fitzgerald's Sentimental Identities Poets & Writers ArtCenter Talks: The First Decade The Beauty of a Social Problem Fiction's Present Publications of the Modern Language Association of America 100 The Believer

American Genius, A Comedy

2019-02-01

grand and minute elegiac and hilarious lynne tillman expands the possibilities of the american novel in this dazzling read about a former historian ruminating on her own life and the lives of others named a best book of the century by vulture in the hypnotic masterful american genius a comedy a former historian spending time in a residential home mental institute artist s colony or sanitarium is spinning tales of her life and ruminating on her many and varied preoccupations chair design textiles pet deaths family trauma a lost brother the manson family the zulu alphabet loneliness memory and sensitive skin and what sensitivity means in our culture and society showing what might happen if jane austen were writing in 21st century america tillman fashions a microcosm of american democracy a scholarly colony functioning like melville s pequod all this is folded into the narrator s memories and emotional life culminating in a seance that may offer escape and transcendence or perhaps nothing at all this new edition of a contemporary classic features an introduction by novelist lucy ives

American Genius

2024-09-26

a former historian is spending time in a residential home but is it an artist s retreat a sanatorium or a mental institute in hypnotic and digressive prose tillman s narrator spins tales of her life while ruminating on her many and varied preoccupations chair design the manson family the zulu alphabet the death of a pet family trauma loneliness and above all skin and the meaning of sensitivity in contemporary society meanwhile these reveries and reminiscences are constantly interrupted by the presence of her fellow residents each with their own obsessions and neuroses in this masterful novel now available in the uk for the first time tillman fashions nothing less than a microcosm of troubled american democracy american genius a comedy reinvents the modernist novel for our distracted and hypermediated era it is the tale of a cons

Romantic Presences in the Twentieth Century

2016-04-08

concerned with the intermingled thematic and formal preoccupations of romantic thought and literary practice in works by twentieth century british irish and american artists this collection examines the complicated legacy of romanticism in twentieth century novels poetry and film even as key twentieth century cultural movements have tried to subvert or debunk romantic narratives of redemptive nature individualism perfectibility and the transcendence of art the forms and modes of feeling associated with the romantic period continue to exert a signal influence on the modern moment both as a source of tension and as creative stimulus as the essays here show the exact meaning of the romantic bequest may be bitterly contested but it has been difficult to leave behind the contributors take up a wide range of authors including virginia woolf f scott fitzgerald w h auden doris lessing seamus heaney hart crane william faulkner don delillo and jonathan franzen what emerges from this lively volume is a fuller picture of the persistence and variety of the romantic period s influence on the twentieth century

MOTHERCARE

2023-11-07

mothercare represents an investigation of the question of duty or conscience what we owe or want to provide to the people in our lives for a reader there's something bracing about tillman's honesty which transforms mothercare from a record or a logbook into a work of art david ulin los angeles times from the brilliantly original novelist and cultural critic lynne tillman comes mothercare an honest and beautifully written account of a sudden drastically changed relationship to one's mother and of the time and labor spent navigating the american healthcare system when a mother's unusual health condition normal pressure hydrocephalus renders her entirely dependent on you your sisters caregivers and companions the unthinkable becomes daily life in mothercare tillman describes doing what seems impossible handling her mother as if she were a child and coping with a longtime ambivalence toward her in tillman's celebrated style and as a rich noticer of strange things colm tóibín she describes without flinching the unexpected heartbreaking and anxious eleven years of caring for a sick parent mothercare is both a cautionary tale and sympathetic guidance for anyone who suddenly becomes a caregiver this story may be helpful informative consoling or upsetting but it never fails to underscore how impossible it is to get the job done completely right

No Lease on Life

2018-06-26

this book channels the rage filth anguish and the bust a gut hilarity of pre-gentrified new york the new york of lynne tillman's hilarious audacious fourth novel is a boiling point of urban decay the east village streets are overrun with crooked cops drug addicts pimps and prostitutes garbage piles up along the sidewalks amid the blaring soundtrack of car stereos confrontations are supercharged by the summer heat wave this merciless noise has left elizabeth hall an insomniac junkies roam her building and overturn trashcans but the landlord refuses to help clean or repair the decrepit conditions live in boyfriend roy is good natured but too avoidant to soothe the sores of city life though elizabeth fights for sanity in this apathetic metropolis violent fantasies threaten to push her over the edge in vivid detail she begins to imagine murders those of the morons she despises and most obsessively her own frightening hilarious and wholly addictive no lease on life is an avant garde sucker punch a plea for humanity propelled by dark wit and unflinching honesty tillman's spare prose frank poignant and always illuminating captures all the raving absurdity of a very bad day in america's toughest hottest melting pot

Motion Sickness

2014-04-22

for the narrator of motion sickness life is an unguided tour adrift in europe she improvises a life and a self in london she's befriended by an expatriate american buddhist and her mysterious husband or may or may not be stalking her in paris she shacks up with arlette an art historian obsessed with velazquez's painting las meninas in amsterdam she teams up with a belgian friend who is studying prostitutes and she tours italy with deeply mismatched english brothers and as with an epic journey the true trajectory is inwards ever inwards into her own dreams and desires

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2009-05

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Haunted Houses

2021-10-26

in uncompromising and fresh prose tillman tells the story of three very contemporary girls grace emily and jane collide with friends family and culture under dark and comic circumstances presented in uncanny disturbing and sometimes shocking terms in haunted houses tillman wries of the past within the present and of the inescapability of private memory and public history a caustic account of how america makes and unmakes a young woman

Bomb: The Author Interviews

2014-11-04

thirty years of interviews that offer a window into the minds and the writing processes of some of the world s best practitioners of poetry and prose publishers weekly starred review since 1981 the quarterly magazine bomb has been the gold standard for artist on artist interviews showcasing writers performers actors musicians painters and architects the founders a group of new york city based artists wanted a public space for art makers to talk to each other about their work without the interference of critics or journalists thirty years later comes this anthology an addictively insightful collection of thirty five interviews with some of the world s most thought provoking funny profound compelling authors it includes literary luminaries such as mary gaitskill junot díaz sharon olds amy hempel martin amis jeffrey eugenides sapphire edwidge danticat and jennifer egan among many others as well as an introduction by francine prose these authors speak frankly about the joys and the pain that inform their work the influence of family ambition criticism and the sinking thrilling knowledge of their own mortality this is bomb magazine s gift to readers a glimpse into the minds that created the books which informed you challenged you yanked on your heartstrings and touched your soul bomb the author interviews brings together a selection of conversations in a handsome anthology the book which offers 35 of the magazine s interviews is both a primer on authorial strategies and a record of the evolution of an iconic literary institution the washington post bomb s author interview series which has been going for years is one of the most inspiring dialogues between writers available bustle these are not your run of the mill author interviews featuring a journalist throwing canned questions at a writer these are conversations between writers and delve into the essence of creativity essential reading for any admirer of contemporary literature seattle post intelligencer

Cast in Doubt

2014-06-10

while the tumultuous 1970s rock th world around them a collection of aging expatriates linger in a quiet town on the island of crete where they have escaped their pasts and their present among them is horace a gay american writer who fears he has finally reached old age idling his time away with alcohol and working on a novel that he will never finish horace feels closer than ever to his own sorry end

2023-07-13

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that is until a young enigmatic american woman named helen joins his crowd of outsiders

After Postmodernism

2020-12-18

several of american literature s most prominent authors and many of their most perceptive critics and reviewers argue that fiction of the last quarter century has turned away from the tendencies of postmodernist writing yet the nature of that turn and the defining qualities of american fiction after postmodernism remain less than clear this volume identifies four prominent trends of the contemporary scene the recovery of the real a rethinking of historical engagement a preoccupation with materiality and a turn to the planetary readings of works by various leading figures including dave eggert jonathan franzen a m homes lance olsen richard powers william t vollmann and david foster wallace support a variety of arguments about this recent revitalization of american literature the chapters in this book were originally published as a special issue of the journal textual practice

The American Novel Now

2010-01-21

the american novel now navigates the vast terrain of the american novel since 1980 exploring issues of identity history family nation and aesthetics as well as cultural movements and narrative strategies from over seventy different authors and novels discusses an exceptionally wide range of authors and novels from established figures to significant emerging writers toni morrison thomas pynchon louise erdrich don delillo richard powers kathy acker and many more explores the range of themes and styles offered in the wealth of contemporary american fiction since 1980 in both mainstream and experimental writings reflects the liveliness and diversity of american fiction in the last thirty years written in a style that makes it ideal for students and scholars while also accessible for general readers

Electric Literature No. 5

2011-01-11

stories by j robert lennon kevin brockmeier lynne tillman carson mell and ben greenman

The Dream of the Great American Novel

2014-02-10

the idea of the great american novel continues to thrive almost as vigorously as in its nineteenth century heyday defying 150 years of attempts to dismiss it as amateurish or obsolete in this landmark book the first in many years to take in the whole sweep of national fiction lawrence buell reanimates this supposedly antiquated idea demonstrating that its history is a key to the dynamics of national literature and national identity itself the dream of the g a n as henry james nicknamed it crystallized soon after the civil war in fresh in depth readings of selected contenders from the 1850s onward in conversation with hundreds of other novels buell delineates four scripts for g a n candidates one illustrated by the scarlet letter is the adaptation of the novel s story line by later writers often in ways that are contrary to the original author s own design other aspirants including the great

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alternative historical positioning and use after their cultural vanguard postmodern aesthetics become a confrontation of the chaotic realism of an inescapable post cold war capitalism tapping into this cultural zeitgeist through literature

The Trouble with Post-Blackness

2015-02-03

an america in which the color of one s skin no longer matters would be unprecedented with the election of president barack obama in 2008 that future suddenly seemed possible obama s rise reflects a nation of fluid populations and fortunes a society in which a biracial individual could be embraced as a leader by all yet complicating this vision are shifting demographics rapid redefinitions of race and the instant invention of brands trends and identities that determine how we think about ourselves and the place of others this collection of original essays confronts the premise advanced by black intellectuals that the obama administration marked the start of a post racial era in the united states while the transcendent and post racial black elite declare victory over america s longstanding codes of racial exclusion and racist violence their evidence relies largely on their own salaries and celebrity these essays strike at the certainty of those who insist that life liberty and the pursuit of happiness are now independent of skin color and race in america they argue signify and testify that post blackness is a problematic mythology masquerading as fact a dangerous new race science motivated by black transcendentalist individualism through rigorous analysis these essays expose the idea of a post racial nation as a pleasurable entitlement for a black elite enabling them to reject the ethics and urgency of improving the well being of the black majority

Telex from Cuba

2008-07-01

finalist for the national book award for fiction the debut novel by new york times bestselling author rachel kushner called shimmering the new yorker multilayered and absorbing the new york times book review and gorgeously written kirkus reviews young everly lederer and k c stites come of age in oriente province where the americans tend their own fiefdom three hundred thousand acres of united fruit company sugarcane that surround their gated enclave if the rural tropics are a child s dreamworld everly and k c nevertheless have keen eyes for the indulgences and betrayals of the grown ups around them the mordant drinking and illicit loves the race hierarchies and violence in havana a thousand kilometers and a world away from the american colony a cabaret dancer meets a french agitator named christian de la mazière whose seductive demeanor can t mask his shameful past together they become enmeshed in the brewing political underground when fidel and raúl castro lead a revolt from the mountains above the cane plantation torching the sugar and kidnapping a boat full of yanqui revelers k c and everly begin to discover the brutality that keeps the colony humming though their parents remain blissfully untouched by the forces of history the children hear the whispers of what is to come kushner s first novel is a tour de force haunting and compelling with the urgency of a telex from a forgotten time and place

All the World's a Grave

2008-08-26

an epic tragedy of love war murder and madness plucked from the pages of shakespeare

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first decade of the department's existence by presenting a selection from over three hundred talks including a 1990 symposium conducted by renowned curator and art historian Robert Storr as well as twelve talks from its artists and critics lecture series known as the Graduate Seminar. Discussions between students and faculty members range from what it means to be an artist and the changing role of art in society to how artists function within an academic setting alongside the newly transcribed talks. This volume also includes reproductions of slides used by participants at the time, bringing the presentations to life. These archival images offer a sense of the context and spirit of the original seminars. Together, an introduction by Stan Douglas, ArtCenter Graduate Art Faculty member, and a foreword by Diana Thater and Jason E. Smith, Chair and Associate Chair of Graduate Art, present historical context for these illuminating talks.

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2020-11-05

Bertolt Brecht once worried that how we feel about the victims of a social problem can get in the way of the beauty and attraction of the problem itself. In this book, Walter Benn Michaels explores the same dilemma through a study of several contemporary artist-photographers whose work speaks to questions of political economy. Michaels focuses on the work of several artists mostly born in the 1970s and thus raised in a world where artistic ambition has been identified with a critique of autonomous form and of meaning as a function of intention. Michaels shows that these artists engage but also push beyond this critique of autonomy and intentionality, producing works that embody a new commitment to form and meaning. The explanation for this commitment, he argues, is these artists' consciousness of making art in an economy riven by structural conflict, especially an unprecedented rise in inequality. For them, he argues, the relationship of the artwork to the world, to its subject and to its beholder, functions as an emblem of the relation between classes rather than identities or subject positions. This book will join the short shelf of essential writings about the medium of photography.

ArtCenter Talks: The First Decade

2017-02-28

Combining creative and critical responses from some of today's most progressive and innovative novelists, critics, and theorists, *Fiction's Present* adventurously engages the aesthetic, political, philosophical, and cultural dimensions of contemporary fiction by juxtaposing scholarly articles with essays by practicing novelists. The book takes up not only the current state of literature and its criticism but also connections between contemporary philosophy and contemporary fiction. In doing so, the contributors aim to provoke further discussion of the present inflection of fiction—a present that can be seen as Janus-faced, looking both forward to the novel's radically changed political, economic, and technological circumstances and back to its history of achievements and problems. Editors R. M. Berry and Jeffrey R. Di Leo contend that examinations of fiction's present are most informative not when they defend philosophical distinctions or develop literary classifications but when they grapple with elusive topics such as the meaning of a narrative present or the relation of fiction's medium to its representations of context. As the essays reveal, this process, when pursued diligently, breaks down traditional divisions of academic and intellectual labor, compelling the fiction writer to become more philosophical and the theorist to become more imaginative. The value of this book is not in the exhaustiveness of its treatment but rather in the seriousness of the criticism it incites. The present materializes in quarrel, and it is toward such a beginning that

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