

## Holiday Gift Guide

# For Art Lovers, Volumes Meant to Awe and Inspire

Who knows if the wave of holiday art books that has descended this year is bigger or better than before? You can't really see the edges anymore. You just have to wade in and try to grab the good stuff as it rushes past.

### Holland Cotter

Buying art books as holiday gifts can be a delicate matter. You have the urge to splurge, to go for kick-back luxe. At the same time, you want to give something substantial and usable, a book that will read as smart as it looks.

Some of the past season's outstanding exhibitions produced such books, with the looking-to-reading ratio varying somewhat from one to the next.

For more and different political art, I also recommend **DESTROY ALL MONSTERS MAGAZINE: 1976-1979** (Primary Information/distributed by Artbook DAP, \$30) a compilation of art and articles from a funky, proto-punk zine that came and went in six issues and three short years. It was cooked up by a Detroit collective of artist-rockers called Destroy All Monsters, which initially included Cary Loren, Mike Kelley, Niagara and Jim Shaw.

Mr. Kelley and Mr. Shaw went on to achieve art establishment fame, but the book that they and their old colleagues have assembled from youthful material feels just right for the Occupy Wall Street moment, or almost right. The Destroy All Monsters spirit was dystopian, not utopian. Making change was on the agenda; making nice was not.

