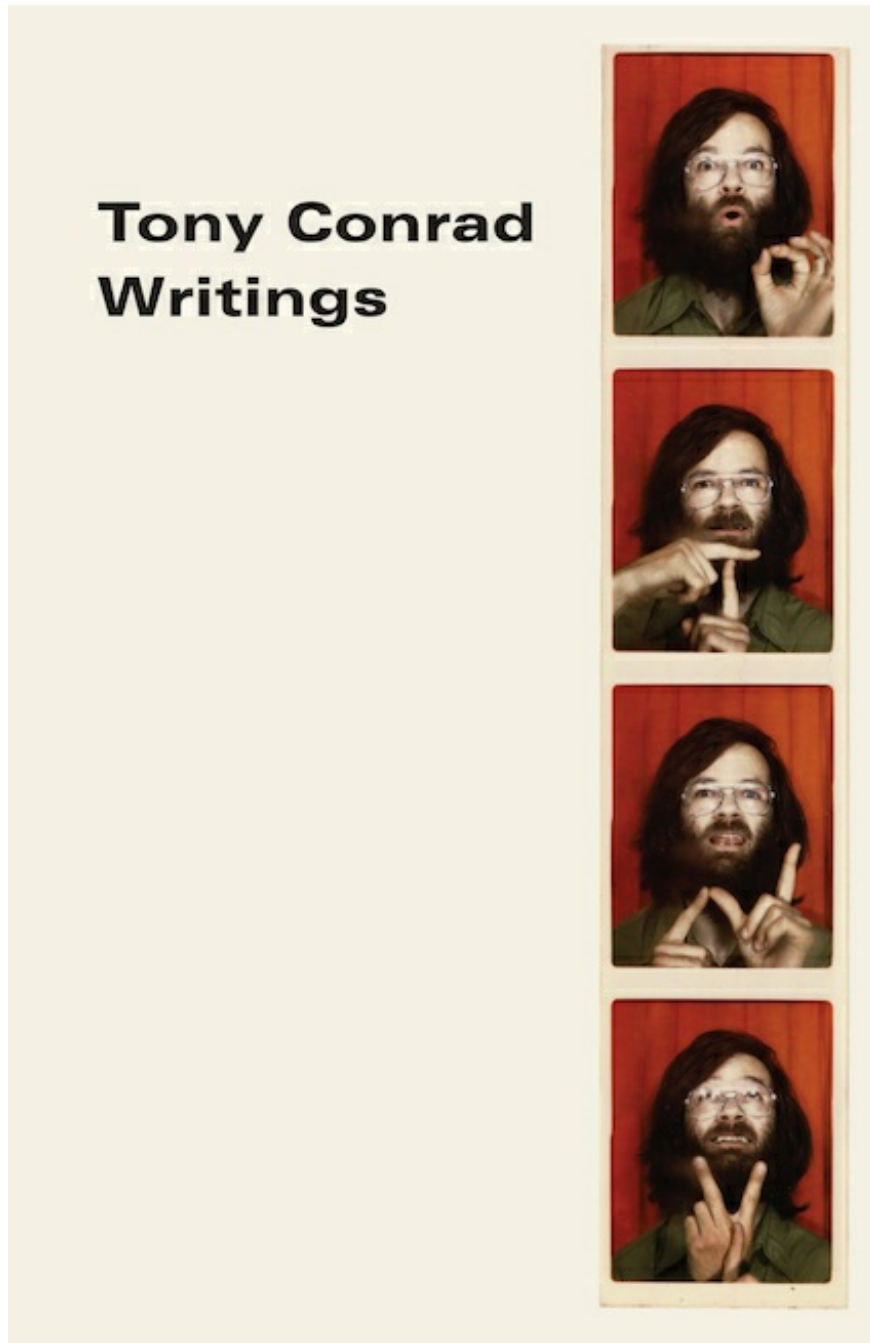


The Year in Sound: Writings, Recordings, and Performances of Artful Aurality in 2019

 artnews.com/art-news/news/year-in-sound-art-2019-1202673394/

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Tony Conrad, *Writings* (Primary Information)

One of many essential books published this year by Primary Information, a long-in-the-making compendium of writings by polyglot artist Tony Conrad gathered thoughts by a singular character who got his start in the 1960s and kept chugging until his death three

years ago. Some of it applies to his work as an experimental filmmaker (see *The Flicker* and many other abstract works for the screen) and a Fluxus-affiliated artist of various kinds. But a good deal deals with the kind of droning, drifting music he made an integral part of the avant-garde lexicon. In one essay, he shouts down the ancient Greek philosopher Pythagoras for having locked Western music into too tight a cage. In another, he broods over “corrupt terms” and “frozen clichés” that hamper radical art and inhibit the kind of interdisciplinary looseness and goofiness that Conrad made his forte.