Books

The best in art and literary publishing in 2020, a highly subjective list

By Randy Kennedy

‘Cover to Cover’ by Michael Snow, Primary Information, 2020. Courtesy Primary Information and Light Industry
‘Cover to Cover,’ by Michael Snow (Light Industry and Primary Information)

Originally published in 1975 by the pioneering Press of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, this facsimile edition finally brings back into circulation a landmark of conceptual art-book-making by one of Canada’s most revered artists, who recently turned 92. You open the ‘door’ of the cover and it’s as if walking into a film whose imagery and plot layer and loop, rendering the experience of the book different almost every time you page through it, front to back, back to front, flipping it over to see it aright. It’s the ‘Last Year at Marienbad’ of photography books, transforming middle-class 1970s Toronto into a recursive dreamscape.