The Best Art Books of 2020

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Cover to Cover by Michael Snow (Light Industry and Primary Information)

To even begin to try to explain what transpires in Michael Snow's *Cover to Cover* is to feel like you've missed the point entirely. The storied artist book from 1975 was released in a facsimile edition by Primary Information (the redoubtable publisher behind other great 2020 titles including *Women in Concrete Poetry: 1959-1979* and Yvonne Rainer's *Work 1961-73*), and flipping through it made for some of the most simultaneously disorienting and locked-in experiences of my year. Without a word, a sort of story presents itself through a quasi-

cinematic sequence of black-and-white photographs whose subject matter becomes the making of those same photographs and then, also, the book itself. It makes sense up until the point when you pause and try to articulate what makes sense about it. In that, Cover felt right for our times. -Andy Battaglia