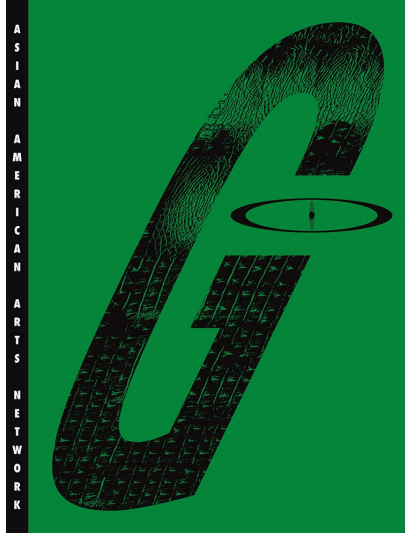


8 Art Books to Read This February

: 2/5/2024

Godzilla: Asian American Arts Network



When Bing Lee, Ken Chu, and Margo Machida got together to form the Godzilla Asian America Arts Network, they ensured that anyone who attended a public meeting was a voting member. Godzilla, in other words, was an “anarchistic lizard,” as Machida once described it. For about a decade, the network organized exhibitions, newsletters, parties, and other events in the spirit of providing broad support for Asian-American artists. Published in 2021 and now especially relevant given the collective’s landmark show at Eric Firestone Gallery, this monumental book captures the group’s history in a year-by-year chronology with art, photos, typewritten letters, meeting minutes, exhibition records, and other archival material that bring the dynamic period to life. Essays by writers including Alice Yang, Pamela Lee, Karin Higa, and Machida herself help us understand the historic sociocultural context of the time, with a rise in Asian-American immigration in the ’90s. It’s essential reading for students of racial justice and artistic movements alike. —*AX Mina*

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