

Editor's Picks: Rediscovering Martin Wong's Playful Vignettes

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Martin Wong, *Footprints, Poems, and Leaves* and *Das Puke Book*

We have to thank Primary Information for publishing facsimiles of these two wonders. Made before Wong moved to New York and established himself as the city's iconic painter of brownstones, *Footprints* and *Das Puke Book* presaged the subject matter that would populate the artist's canvases.

Das Puke Book contains weird-o vignettes of the type that could be found in fellow San Franciscan Richard Brautigan's *Trout Fishing in America* (1967), but with the playful, filthy abjection of Jean Genet's *Our Lady of the Flowers* (1943) – all written with an early version of the vigorous script that would define his paintings.