

# TAKE NINAGAWA

## Biography

Ken Okiishi

Born 1978, Ames, Iowa

Lives and works in New York

2001 BFA, The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, New York

## Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2019 “A Model Childhood,” Pilar Corrias, London
- 2018 “A Model Childhood,” Reena Spaulings Fine Art, Los Angeles
- 2017 “Being and/or Time,” Reena Spaulings Fine Art, New York
- 2016 “Solar/Data/Matter: Sobreteixims i escultures, 1972, 1968, 2016, 1978,” Fundació Gaspar, Barcelona
- 2015 “Porous Feedback,” Arbeiterkammer Wien, Vienna  
“gestures, data, feedback,” Take Ninagawa, Tokyo
- 2014 “Screen Presence,” Projekt 25/25/25, Museum Ludwig, Cologne  
“Eggleston und Andere, ‘reality bites’,” Mathew, Berlin  
“KEN OKIISHI,” Reena Spaulings Fine Art, New York
- 2013 “gesture/data,” Pilar Corrias, London  
“[List Projects] Ken Okiishi,” MIT List Visual Arts Center, Cambridge, Massachusetts  
“A Way Out As Hovering,” (curated by Annie Godfrey Larmon), Rongwrong, Amsterdam  
“The Very Quick of the Word,” (curated by Annie Godfrey Larmon),  
Hessel Museum of Art, Bard Center for Curatorial Studies, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York
- 2012 “(Goodbye to),” Take Ninagawa, Tokyo  
“Gino / Marcel Duchamp on StreetEasy.com,” Mathew, Berlin
- 2010 “(Goodbye to) Manhattan,” Mehringdamm 72, Berlin  
“(Goodbye to) Manhattan,” Alex Zachary, New York

## Collaborative exhibitions

- 2015 “Poetry as not, with singing,” Artist Web Project, Dia Art Foundation, New York
- 2014 “Mendes Wood DM,” (with Nick Mauss), Sao Paulo
- 2012 “Looking Back: The 6th White Columns Annual” (co-curated with Nick Mauss), White Columns, New York
- 2007 “A Fair to Meddling Story,” (with Nick Mauss), Künstlerhaus Stuttgart, Stuttgart  
“One Season in Hell,”(with Nick Mauss), Upstairs at Gavin Brown’s Enterprise, New York

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## Selected Performances and Screenings

- 2016 “The Magazine Sessions 2016: Emily Sundblad, Dichterliebe/Divine Bitches Part Two, with Juliana Huxtable and Ken Okiishi,” Serpentine Sackler Gallery, London, Monday 18 April, 2016
- 2015 “Enter/Exit,” curated by Steven Cairns as part of OPEN-ENDED ISSUES: Eine Reihe zu Überproduktion und Ambivalenz in der zeitgenössischen Kunst, Kunsthalle Bern, Switzerland
- “Albert Oehlen: Home and Garden, Contemporary Painting Symposium, Panel 2: Digital Abstraction,” New Museum, New York
- “Light Repairs: A Roundtable on the Restoration of Mark Rothko's Harvard Murals,” (with Yve-Alain Bois, Harry Cooper, Lynn Hershman Leeson, Carol Mancusi-Ungaro, Ken Okiishi, R.H. Quaytman, David Reed, Jeffrey Weiss and Michelle Kuo), Artforum, Summer 2015, pp. 290-299, 380, 382, 384
- “Universal Pictures: Considering Contemporary Video Practice,” (roundtable with Joan Jonas, Ken Okiishi, Lucy Raven and Jennifer West), Jewish Museum, New York
- 2014 “Modern Mondays: An Evening with Ken Okiishi,” (screening and discussion with Stuart Comer and Emmelyn Butterfield-Rosen), Museum of Modern Art, New York
- “Artists’ Film Biennial,” (curated screening of works by Leslie Singer & Cecilia Dougherty and Loretta Fahrenholz), ICA, London
- “Who Cares if it's Painting: Artist Ken Okiishi Talks with Curator Kathy Halbreich,” Museum of Modern Art, New York
- “Who Cares if it's Painting?,” panel discussion organised in conjunction with Alibis: Sigmar Polke 1963–2010, (with Frances Stark, Carroll Dunham, Wolfgang Tillmans, Ken Okiishi, and Glenn Ligon. Moderated by Kathy Halbreich), Museum of Modern Art, New York
- 2013 “The Sixth Year,” (Produced by Ludlow 38, New York), Anthology Film Archives, New York
- “Artists’ Film Club: Ken Okiishi + Q&A,” ICA, London
- “Pride Goes Before a Fall: Beware of a Holy Whore: an exhibition in two acts,” Artists Space, New York
- “(Goodbye to) Manhattan,” Halle für Kunst, Lüneburg
- “Telly & Casper / The Deleted Scene,” Artists Space Books and Talks, New York
- “El Mundo, Haunted Houses Projects, White Columns & Rainer Ganahl present: Classical Music Concert at El Mundo Third Avenue Theater,” El Mundo - All Brand Name, 1852 Third Avenue, New York
- “Domino, I ate it” (with Emily Sundblad), L'Archiduc (organized by Galerie VidalCuglietta), Brussels
- 2012 “Corrected Slogans: A Publication in Four Acts: Act 1: Poems for America: A Rebour [Aaron Kunin in conversation with Ken Okiishi, moderated by Katie Raissian],” Triple Canopy, Brooklyn, New York
- “Volcano Extravaganza” (with Emily Sundblad), Stromboli, Aeolian Islands
- “A Hanging at TIMES,” TIMES e.V. für Kunst und Kultur, Neukölln, Berlin
- “Golem,” Hamburg
- 2011 “(Goodbye to) Manhattan,” Anthology Film Archives, New York
- 2010 “Harpsichord concert,” Schinkel Pavilion, Berlin
- 2009 “Circular File Channel: Episode 2005 (2009),” Performa 09, New York
- “Nostalgia Isn't What It Used To Be” (performance series curated by Sharon Hayes and Brook O'Harra), La Mama E.T.C., New York

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- 2008 “Manhattan soundtrack,” Evas Arche und der Feminist, New York  
“Vorstellungsklavier (version 3),” Ludlow 38, New York
- 2007 “Vorstellungsklavier (version 2),” Künstlerhaus Stuttgart, Stuttgart  
“Vorstellungsklavier (version 1),” Upstairs at Gavin Brown's Enterprise, New York
- 2006 “E.lliotT.: Children of the New Age” (screening), Evas Arche und der Feminist, Berlin
- 2001 “The Good Luck Galleon” (broadcast of “Telly and Casper”), Manhattan Neighborhood Network Television

## Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2018 “The Vitalist Economy of Painting,” Galerie Neu, Berlin  
“10th Anniversary,” Take Ninagawa, Tokyo
- 2017 “Being Modern: MoMA in Paris,” Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris
- 2016 “PLEIN\_ECRAN,” La Station, Nice  
“The Thea Westreich Wagner and Ethan Wagner Collection,” Centre Pompidou, Paris  
“Mixtape 2016,” Pilar Corrias Gallery, London  
“Performing Time,” Leo Xu Projects, Shanghai  
“Poetry as not, with singing,” Artist Web Project, Dia Art Foundation, New York  
“Mixtape 2016,” Pilar Corrias, London  
“MashUp: The Birth of Modern Culture,” Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver  
“Performing Time,” Leo Xu Projects, Shanghai
- 2015 “Collected by Thea Westreich Wagner and Ethan Wagner,” Whitney Museum of American Art, New York  
“Full of Peril and Weirdness: Painting as a Universalism,” M WOODS, Beijing  
“Enter/Exit part of OPEN-ENDED ISSUES: Eine Reihe zu Überproduktion und Ambivalenz in der zeitgenössischen Kunst,” Kunsthalle Bern, Switzerland  
“31st Ljubljana Biennial of Graphic Arts: Over you / you,” Ljubljana, Slovenia  
“Under the Clouds: From Paranoia to the Digital Sublime,” Serralves Museum, Porto, Portugal  
“Second Chances,” Aspen Art Museum, Aspen  
“The Tell-Tale Heart,” Chi Art Space, K11, Hong Kong
- 2014 “Cut to Swipe,” The Museum of Modern Art, New York  
“Galerie Neu at La Douane,” Galerie Chantal Crousel, Paris  
“The Material Image” (Curated by Deb Singer), Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York  
“Whitney Biennial 2014,” Whitney Museum of American Art, New York  
“The Granite Block,” Overduin & Co., Los Angeles
- 2013 “5th Anniversary,” Take Ninagawa, Tokyo  
“Das Beste vom Besten: Vom riskanten Geschäft der Kunst [On the Risky Business of Art],” Kunstverein für die Rheinlande und Westfalen, Düsseldorf  
“Frieze Projects,” Frieze Art Fair, London  
“Speculations on Anonymous Materials,” Fridericianum, Kassel  
“Love is still colder than capital,” Mathew, Berlin  
“Version Control,” Arnolfini, Bristol  
“Liebe ist Kälter als das Kapital [Love is Colder than Capital],” Kunsthaus Bregenz, Austria

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- “Frozen Lakes,” Artists Space, New York
- 2012 “Now I am quietly waiting for the catastrophe of my personality to seem beautiful again, and interesting, and modern” (curated by Tom Burr), Bortolami, New York
- “TCCA, NEW THEATER 2012-2013, APN Research, autoslides #1-3, shindisi home videos, the deleted scene, a fanzine as a museum / a museum as a fanzine, cut-out bin / apnegative, sci-fi sounds from the alienated kitchen, OOO &&& LLL, hc r 1,” Kunsthalle Bern, Switzerland
- “The Log-0-Rithmic,” GAMeC, Bergamo, Italy
- “Volcano Extravaganza,” Stromboli, Aeolian Islands
- “Films and Windows II,” Mathew, Berlin
- “During the Second World War, a British sergeant piloting a Kittyhawk fighter plane disappeared in the Sahara Desert. Now employees of an oil company have come upon the plane's remains within the shifting Egyptian sands. To the joy of historians, the aircraft is astonishingly well-preserved and reveals a great deal about its pilot's fight for survival”: Heike-Karin Föll, Ken Okiishi, Robin Bruch,” Peep-hole, Milan
- “Relocated,” MD 72, Berlin
- 2011 “Grand Opening Part 1,” Mathew, Berlin
- “Perfect Man II,” White Columns,” New York
- “Books on Books,” Swiss Institute, New York
- “Based in Berlin,” Berlin
- “Hasta Mañana,” Greene Naftali, New York
- “Nobody Can Tell the Why of It,” 1857, Oslo
- “I don't know if it makes any sense – I feel quite dizzy and a little drunk due to the blow. I will return with more info shortly...,” IMO, Copenhagen
- “Chris Kraus, Ken Okiishi,” George Perec / Bernard Queysanne and friends, Herald St, London
- “One is the loneliest number” (with Nick Mauss), Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia
- 2010 “In the Middle of Affairs” (curated by Egija Inzule, Tobias Kaspar and Axel J. Wieder) Kunstlerhaus Stuttgart
- 2009 “Head-wig (Portrait of an exhibition)”, Selected by Paulina Olowaska, Camden Arts Centre, London
- “modernmodern” (curated by Pati Hertling), Chelsea Art Museum, New York
- “Gennariello,” Balice Hertling, Paris
- “Evas Arche und der Feminist,” Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis
- 2008 “One Season in Hell,” MD72, Berlin
- 2006 “When Artists Say We,” Artists Space, New York
- “Between the Lines” (curated by Nick Mauss), Daniel Reich temporary space at the Chelsea Hotel, New York
- “Sehnsüchtig gleiten Ballone rund um die Welt” (KünstlerInnen-Archiv) (curated by Caroline Eggel and Christiane Rekade) Gormannstrasse/Mulackstrasse, Berlin
- 2005 “Exile: New York is a Good Hotel” (curated by Anke Kempkes), Broadway 1602, New York
- 2004 “Home” (organized by Patterson Beckwith), American Fine Arts, Co. at P.H.A.G., New York
- “New Image Art,” Los Angeles
- “Nowojorskie Porno” (curated by Monika Szczukowska), Foksal Gallery Foundation, Warsaw
- “Was ist in meiner Wohnung wenn ich nicht da bin?” (Programm im Gästezimmer) (curated by Caroline Eggel and Christiane Rekade), Temporary project space, Berlin

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- 2003 “Now Playing,” D’Amelio Terras, New York  
“Listen Translate Translate Record” (curated by Lanka Tattersall), Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York  
“Karaoke Death Machine,” Daniel Reich Gallery, New York
- 2001 “Sharing Horizons That Are New to Us,” Houghton Gallery, Cooper Union School of Art, New York  
“Coal By Any Other Name: The Journey Towards The Good Taste (compiled and set on stage by Syntax, Early Century Unrest & The Society Of Control” a.k.a. Stephen Dillemuth), American Fine Arts, Co., Colin de Land Fine Art, New York
- 2000 “The Anita Pallenberg Story” (Video by Laura Cottingham and Leslie Singer, with production still photographs by Aaron Cobbett, Laura Cottingham, Rainer Ganahl, Lucas Michael, Chuck Nanney and Ken Okiishi), Postmasters, New York

## Public Collections

- Museum of Modern Art, New York  
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York  
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York  
Museum Ludwig, Cologne

## Bibliography

### Books

- 2015 Macel, Christine, Elisabeth Sussman, and Elisabeth Sherman, *Collected by Thea Westreich Wagner and Ethan Wagner*, Whitney Museum of American Art
- 2014 Okiishi, Ken, Annie Godfrey Larmon, Alise Uptis, *The Very Quick of the Word*, Sternberg Press  
*Whitney Biennial 2014* [exhibition catalogue], Yale / Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
- 2013 Okiishi, Ken and Annie Godfrey Larmon, *[DRAFT] A Way Out as Hovering: Congestion and Porosity in the Work of Ken Okiishi*, New York: Hessel Museum of Art, CCS Bard Center for Curatorial Studies
- 2012 *Corrected Slogans: Reading and Writing Conceptualism*, New York: Triple Canopy
- 2011 Biesenbach, Klaus, Christine Marcel, Hans Ulrich Obrist, Jakob Schillinger, Fredi Fischli, Angelique Campens, Scott Cameron Weaver, Magdalena Magiera, *Based in Berlin*, Berlin: König
- 2009 Hertling, Pati, Stefan Kalmar, Ariane Müller, Jan Verwoert, *modern modern*, New York/Berlin: Chelsea Art Museum/Starship
- 2008 *A Fair to Meddling Story*, With Nick Mauss and Jill Johnston, Zürich: JRP Ringier
- 2007 *One Season in Hell*, With Nick Mauss, New York: Gavin Brown's Enterprise

### Selected Writing by the Artist

- 2018 “Ken Okiishi on the art of Bruce Nauman,” *Artforum*, October 2018
- 2017 “Ken Okiishi on Rei Kawa Kubo *Comme des Garçons* at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York”, *Texte zur Kunst*, September 2017, pp. 180-185
- 2016 “Passages: Pierre Boulez,” *Artforum*, July 2016
- 2015 “Light Repairs: A Roundtable on the Restoration of Mark Rothko's Harvard Murals,” (with Yve-Alain Bois, Harry Cooper, Lynn Hershman Leeson, Carol Mancusi-Ungaro, Ken Okiishi, R. H. Quaytman,

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- David Reed, Jeffrey Weiss and Michelle Kuo), *Artforum*, Summer 2015, pp. 290–299, 380, 382, 384  
“Time as Material: Joan Jonas, Ken Okiishi, Lucy Raven, Jennifer West,” *Mousse* 47, February 2015, pp. 222-233  
Critics Page, (curated by Barbara London), “Tools and Contemporary Art,” Ken Okiishi, *The Brooklyn Rail*, March 2015,
- 2013 “Carlo Scarpa,” *Artforum*, November  
“Live from Harlem,” in *El Mundo: A Classical Music Concert*, Booklet/LP, Mousse/Villa Merkel/White Columns/ Haunted House Projects  
“Ei Arakawa interviewed by Ken Okiishi about his participation in the UNITED MileagePlus Program,” *Wandering* No. 2
- 2012 “Best of 2012: Bernadette Corporation: 2000 Wasted Years,” *Artforum*, December, pp. 222-225  
“Sun Photographs: Ken Okiishi and Nick Mauss reflect on Zoe Leonard’s Sun Photographs,” *MAP*  
“Ken Okiishi on Forrest Bess,” *Artforum*, May, pp. 89-92  
“The Threat of the Provincial [Le menace du provincial],” *May*, No. 8 (February), pp. 16 - 37
- 2011 “Fancy Feast: Ken Okiishi on The Leopard at Des Artistes,” *Artforum*, November, pp. 107-108
- 2010 “Artists’ Artists,” *Artforum*, December
- 2008 “On Georges Perec’s ‘Un homme qui dort,’” *Bidoun*, No. 14 (Spring/Summer)  
“If/Then: Carey Young,” [review] *Bidoun*, No. 14 (Spring/Summer)  
“Top Ten,” [with Nick Mauss] *Artforum*, March
- 2007 “K/L/M/N/O/P: a conversation,” *Noël sur le balcon / HOLD THE COLOR*. with Nick Mauss, Lucy McKenzie and Paulina Olowaska, Ed. Jan Seewald and Stephan Urbaschek, Munich: Kunstverlag Ingvild Goetz, pp. 64-112  
“Documenta 12,” [review] *Bidoun*, No. 12 (Fall)
- 2006 “Never Forget to Remember: On Disaster and Tourism,” *Bidoun*, No. 7, pp. 71
- 2003 “How Raël taught me how to meet the aliens,” *K48: “Kult 48,”* No. 4, pp. 11-13

## Selected Reviews and Features

- 2017 “Ken Okiishi,” *The New Yorker*, March 6  
Ballard, Thea, “Ken Okiishi,” *Art in America*, April
- 2016 Bell, Kirsty, “Recalibrating the Eye. Ken Okiishi and Kirsty Bell in Conversation,” *Camera Austria International*, Issue #134, 2016
- 2015 Maerkle, Andrew, “AB/EX/AMB/OM,” *ART iT*, November 6  
“Artist Pick Up: Ken Okiishi,” *Bijutsu Techo*, November Issue, pp. 132-135  
Wilk, Elvia, “Ken Okiishi,” *Art in America*, February 28
- 2014 Smith, Roberta, “Ken Okiishi: Reena Spaulings Fine Art,” *New York Times*, March 13  
Nagy, Jeff, “Ken Okiishi,” *Artforum*, Summer 2014  
Pollack, Maika, “Alibis: Sigmar Polke 1963-2010, The Museum of Modern Art,” *Galleries NY*, April 16  
Roben, Scott, “PICKS: Ken Okiishi,” *Artforum.com*  
Howe, David Everitt, “Everywhere at Once: Ken Okiishi: painting in the age of Instagram,” *Frieze Magazine*, April 2014  
Pollack, Maika, “Ken Okiishi,” *Interview Magazine*, March 2014

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- Doran, Ann, "Ken Okiishi," TimeOut New York, March 10
- 2013 Cotter, Holland, "Frozen Lakes," New York Times, February 21  
Fiske, Courtney, "Frozen Lakes"  
Russeth, Andrew, "New York Artists Now," GalleristNY  
Russeth, Andrew, "'Frozen Lakes' at Artsits Space," GalleristNY, January 29
- 2012 McGovern, Fiona, "Roto-Zebra-Reliefs," Annual Magazine (Paris), pp. 49-51  
McGovern, Fiona, "Roto-Zebra-Reliefs," Texte zur Kunst, pp. 204-206  
Stakemeier, Kerstin, Artforum.com [review]  
Smith, Roberta, "Looking Back / The 6th White Columns Annual—Selected by Ken Okiishi and Nick Mauss,"  
The New York Times, February 10  
Wilson, Michael, "Looking Back: The 6th White Columns Annual," Artforum, April  
"Looking Back," The New Yorker, January 17  
Heinrich, Will, "The End of the Beginning: Looking Back/The White Columns Annual," The New York  
Observer, January 16
- 2011 Trembley, Nicolas, "Happy Galleries," Numéro, December 2011 – January 2012, pp. 52  
Holmqvist, Karl, "(Goodbye to) Manhattan," May, No. 7, October, pp. 118-124  
Russeth, Andrew, "In Artforum, Artist Ken Okiishi Becomes a Restaurant Critic," GalleristNY, October 25  
McGarry, Kevin, "Frieze Frame: Ken Okiishi's Manhattan Transfer," T Magazine (The New York Times Style  
Magazine), October 18  
"Frieze hopes for a fair wind," The Independent, October 13  
Cotter, Holland, "PERFECT MAN II," New York Times, October 7  
Rutland, Beau, "Hasta Mañana," Artforum, October, pp. 341  
"Hasta Mañana," Time Out New York, July 14-20, pp. 38  
Røed, Kjetil, "Nobody Can Tell the Why of It," Aftenposten, May 2011  
Nordby Wernø, Johanne, "Nobody Can Tell the Why of It" Artforum.com / Critics Pick  
"Nobody Can Tell the Why of It' at 1857, Oslo," Mousse Magazine Blog, June 14  
Haraldseth, Geri, "NOBODY CAN TELL THE WHY OF IT Curated by Esperanza Rosales at 1857, Oslo,"  
Kaleidoscope Blog  
Lewis, David, "Neverland," Mousse 26, December 2010/January 2011, pp. 190-195.
- 2010 Camblin, Victoria, "Ken Okiishi,"  
Artforum.com / Critics Pick  
DAS INSTITUT, "Top Ten," Artforum, April, pp.95  
"Ken Okiishi," The New Yorker, March 8  
Sanchez, Michael, "From the Inside Out: Ken Okiishi," Art in America, February 17  
Rosenberg, Karen, "Art in Review," New York Times, Feb 5, pp. C27
- 2009 Geldard, Rebecca, "Head-wig. (Portrait of an Exhibition) Selected by Paulina Olowaska," Art Review,  
December, pp. 116  
Charlesworth, JJ, "Head-wig (Portrait of an Exhibition)," Time Out London, Oct. 30  
Eichler, Dominic, "How do these things touch each other?" Mousse, September-October, pp. 41-45  
Stillpass, Zoe, "Gennariello. Balice Hertling--Paris," Flash Art, May-June 2009, pp. 130

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- Lewis, David, "Gennariello," Artforum.com / Critics Picks, March 20
- 2008 Wolin, Joseph, "Ken Okiishi & Nick Mauss," Modern Painters, December 2008 /January 2009, pp. 62-63
- 2007 Zerweck, Dietholf, "Realität mit Fragezeichen," Esslinger Zeitung, Oct 19
- Leisten, Georg, "Ein blutrotes Fragezeichen," Stuttgarter Zeitung, Nov 6
- Schacher, Marko, "Austellung als Schnitzeljagd," Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 9 Nov. listing, film screening of Georges Perec and Bernard Queysanne's Un Homme Qui Dort for the end of the Künstlerhaus exhibition, Stuttgarter Nachrichten, Nov 24
- 2006 Cotter, Holland. "Between the Lines," New York Times, March 24
- Armetta, Amoreen, "Out of the Box," art on paper, September-October, pp. 36-37
- 2005 Cotter, Holland. "Exile in New York is a Good Hotel," New York Times, August 5
- 2004 "Delia Gonzalez & Gavin Russom, Ken Okiishi & Nick Mauss," Dune (Tokyo), No. 28, pp. 122-125
- "Happenings: Home Economics" New York Magazine, August 9, pp. 82 and 84
- Staniszewski, Jancek, "W Drgawkach Lambady," Fluid (Warsaw), No. 38, pp. 52-59
- "Młodzi nowojorczyacy w Warszawie," Gazeta Wyborcza (National Edition), 24-25 January, pp. 9
- "Nowojorskie porno" Gazeta Wyborcza (Co Jest Grane), 23 January, pp. 2
- 2003 "Krajowe Porno z USA," [www.raster.art.pl](http://www.raster.art.pl), felietony/eseje/artykuły XI-XII 2003 (archive)