



## 25 Women: Essays on Their Art

By Dave Hickey

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*Newsweek* calls him “exhilarating and deeply engaging.” *Time Out New York* calls him “smart, provocative, and a great writer.” Critic Peter Schjeldahl, meanwhile, simply calls him “My hero.” There’s no one in the art world quite like Dave Hickey—and a new book of his writing is an event.

*25 Women* will not disappoint. The book collects Hickey’s best and most important writing about female artists from the past twenty years. But this is far more than a compilation: Hickey has revised each essay, bringing them up to date and drawing out common themes. Written in Hickey’s trademark style—accessible, witty, and powerfully illuminating—*25 Women* analyzes the work of Joan Mitchell, Bridget Riley, Fiona Rae, Lynda Benglis, Karen Carson, and many others. Hickey discusses their work *as work*, bringing politics and gender into the discussion only where it seems warranted by the art itself. The resulting book is not only a deep engagement with some of the most influential and innovative contemporary artists, but also a reflection on the life and role of the critic: the decisions, judgments, politics, and ethics that critics negotiate throughout their careers in the art world.

Always engaging, often controversial, and *never* dull, Dave Hickey is a writer who gets people excited—and talking—about art. *25 Women* will thrill his many fans, and make him plenty of new ones.

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## Editorial Review

### Review

"He holds the distinction of being a public intellectual, one of a handful of art critics known and read by a wider audience. . . . Hickey is neither art criticism's reactionary philosopher king nor its populist Robin Hood, but a sensualist with an acquired taste for art that is resistant to interpretation and unapologetically elitist, a term he halfheartedly redeems as a positive value. He's a colorful essayist and a perceptive critic." (*New York Times Book Review*)

"Throughout these trenchant essays on female artists, Hickey is characteristically incisive, challenging, and weird. . . . Regardless of reputation, Hickey always deploys the same lively rigor. The introduction, titled 'A Ladies' Man,' in which Hickey explains how 'most of my favorite people are women,' emerges as a surprisingly powerful piece of memoir." (*Publishers Weekly, starred review*)

"If you're an artist or an art lover, this needs to be on the top of your reading list."

(*Bustle*)

"Hickey has sizzle. He rattles cages and yanks chains as an art writer of voracious attentiveness, free-spirited intelligence, invigorating wit, vinegary candor, and a gift for literary constructions of provoking finesse. . . . He balances incisive, funny, idiosyncratic biographical observations with all-senses-firing immersions in the art under discussion, racing off on tangents and nailing down arresting perceptions about what we expect from art and what we receive. . . . The artists are significant and intriguing, Hickey's criticism exceptionally dynamic and enlightening." (*Booklist, starred review*)

"Less a book of criticism than an engaging treatment of some of the most fascinating contemporary artists. Highly recommended." (*Choice*)

"One of the most interesting books anyone has *ever* written about women artists. There is no bogus effort to find strained 'commonalities' or 'shared sensibilities.' Each artist is absolutely 'complete' in and of herself. There is stunning and polymathic erudition, connoisseurship and theoretical *nous* here, but one must also cherish the book for the endless, morphing, sparking, sparkling *ideas* taking shape on every page. It's as if someone were setting off exciting little squibs in almost every sentence--fun for sure, but often with an extraordinary pay-off: so many of them blossom into huge beautiful fireworks that then proceed to hang up there in the sky. The charmed voice never wearies or disappoints." (Terry Castle)

"Idiosyncratic assessments of contemporary women painters, sculptors, and installation and performance artists by an enfant terrible of art criticism. Hickey has been a thorn in the side of art criticism for years. . . . Admirable. . . . Hickey's writing is clever, straightforward, and honest. . . . Hickey has piquant, insightful things to say about all of these artists." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

"It will raise a hackle or two, not least among hacks."  
(Jeremy Gilbert Rolph)

"Dave Hickey is not lacking in chutzpah; he has, after all, on occasion been referred to as the 'bad boy' of art criticism."

"*25 Women* resembles an unfettered, if highly enriching, dump of Hickey's free-associative musings.... The text zooms from anecdotes about Hickey's youth in the cattle yards of Texas, to his time spent hobnobbing with the likes of Andy Warhol in New York, to a meta description of the home office in which he is writing. We get a similarly panoptic run at the various female subjects, including personal biography, cultural context, and fictitious narratives meant to elucidate deeper truths about their art."

"For Hickey, art is not a dead object to be seen and dryly interpreted; rather the act of viewing art creates its own meaning. Again and again, he describes the process of confronting a piece of art that resists him and then feeling a blurring of boundaries between himself and the work, something akin to a momentary out-of-body experience."

(Caitlin Smith Rimschnick *Bookslut*)

About the Author

**Dave Hickey** is former executive editor of *Art in America* and the author of *The Invisible Dragon: Essays on Beauty* and *Air Guitar*. He has served as a contributing editor for the *Village Voice* and as the arts editor of the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*.

## Users Review

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**Raymond McMillion:**

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**Christina Ruiz:**

This *25 Women: Essays on Their Art* is great guide for you because the content that is full of information for you who have always deal with world and possess to make decision every minute. That book reveal it facts accurately using great manage word or we can say no rambling sentences included. So if you are read this hurriedly you can have whole information in it. Doesn't mean it only provides straight forward sentences but tough core information with wonderful delivering sentences. Having *25 Women: Essays on Their Art* in your hand like obtaining the world in your arm, facts in it is not ridiculous one. We can say that no book that offer you world inside ten or fifteen moment right but this book already do that. So , this is certainly good reading book. Hey there Mr. and Mrs. busy do you still doubt which?

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