

THE CRITICS' TABLE ART LITERATURE

The Year in Art Books: Our Critics Pick Their Favorite Titles

Co-Chief Art Critics Johanna Fateman and John Vincler share the books that sustained them this year.

WORDS


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John Vincler

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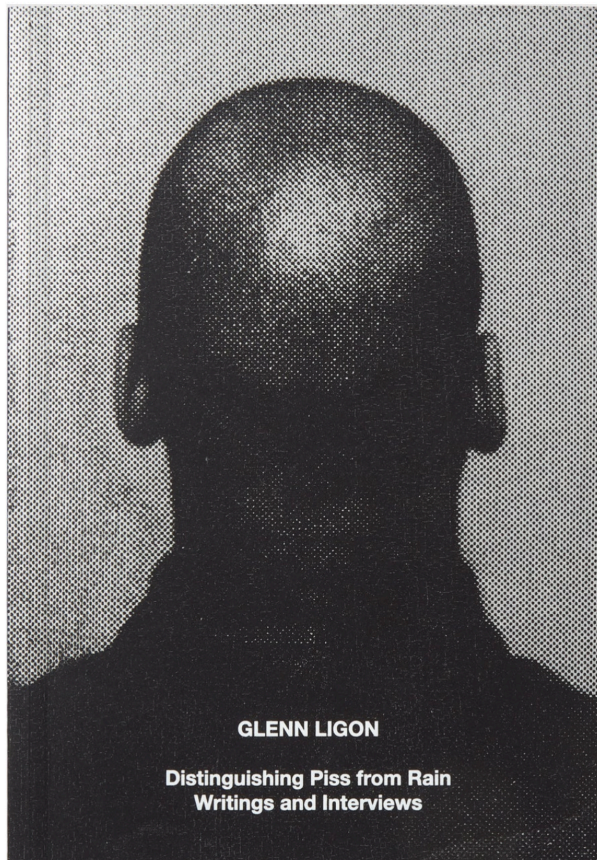


Image courtesy of Hauser & Wirth.

Distinguishing Piss from Rain: Writings and Interviews

By Glenn Ligon, with an introduction by Thomas (T.) Jean Lax

Hauser & Wirth

Anyone who has paid attention to the conceptual artist—his writing, his interviews, and, especially, the artworks—knows there is a reason [Glenn Ligon](#)'s thinking is frequently in dialogue with literature, from the writing of James Baldwin to that of Egyptian-born Greek poet C.P. Cavafy. Ligon's essays, anthologized here, are elegantly constructed, while revealing what he's learned from the artists who have inspired him (such as [David Hammons](#) and [Felix Gonzalez-Torres](#)) as well as his eye for younger talent (he references [Tourmaline](#)'s work on Marsha P. Johnson while writing on Warhol). The interviews are equally sharp, as in the conversation with curator Hamza Walker, where Ligon moves from discussing the music of Sun Ra to the date paintings of On Kawara. Together the texts form a hefty tome worthy of a capacious artist.

—John Vincler

Glenn Ligon Studio