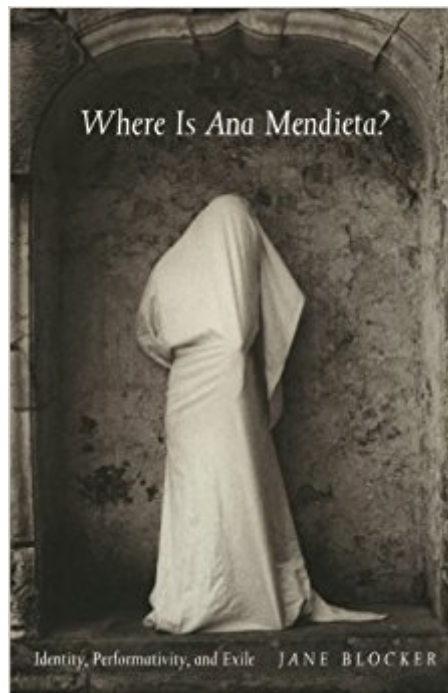




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Where Is Ana Mendieta?: Identity, Performativity, And Exile



Synopsis

Ana Mendieta, a Cuban-born artist who lived in exile in the United States, was one of the most provocative and complex personalities of the 1970s's artworld. In *Where Is Ana Mendieta?* art historian Jane Blocker provides an in-depth critical analysis of Mendieta's diverse body of work. Although her untimely death in 1985 remains shrouded in controversy, her life and artistic legacy provide a unique vantage point from which to consider the history of performance art, installation, and earth works, as well as feminism, multiculturalism, and postmodernism. Taken from banners carried in a 1992 protest outside the Guggenheim Museum in New York, the title phrase "Where is Ana Mendieta?" evokes not only the suspicious and tragic circumstances surrounding her death but also the conspicuous absence of women artists from high-profile exhibitions. Drawing on the work of such theorists as Judith Butler, Joseph Roach, Edward Said, and Homi Bhabha, Blocker discusses the power of Mendieta's earth-and-body art to alter, unsettle, and broaden the terms of identity itself. She shows how Mendieta used exile as a discursive position from which to disrupt dominant categories, analyzing as well Mendieta's use of mythology and anthropology, the ephemeral nature of her media, and the debates over her ethnic, gender, and national identities. As the first major critical examination of this enigmatic artist's work, *Where Is Ana Mendieta?* will interest a broad audience, particularly those involved with the production, criticism, theory, and history of contemporary art.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This book offers a more rigorous historical and cultural analysis than earlier texts on Ana

Mendieta. It adds usefully to one's understanding of Mendieta's work and will contribute to her insertion into history."--Mira Schor, author of *Wet: On Painting, Feminism, and Art Culture*
"This is a very important study of one of the most ambitious and intriguing artists of our time. Blocker's work brings together performance theory, historiography, art history, and biography in order to illuminate some of the beckoning caves and shadows of Mendieta's art and life."--Peggy Phelan, author of *Mourning Sex: Performing Public Memories*

"This book offers a more rigorous historical and cultural analysis than earlier texts on Ana Mendieta. It adds usefully to one's understanding of Mendieta's work and will contribute to her insertion into history."--Mira Schor, author of "Wet: On Painting, Feminism, and Art Culture"

Excellent appraisal of her art and the artist!

Excellent book, super fast delivery.

Excellent arrived in time excellent product

Jane Blocker has done an exquisite job of her research and documentation of not only Ana Mendieta, but other related artists pertaining to related areas of interest. I found this text to be deeply insightful. As one who has recently become interested in the work and life of Ana Mendieta, I found this book to be much more than an introduction to the "earth/body"-oriented artist, but a document helpful enough for in depth study. The photos, however, are black and white, and scarce. If it's a full color collection of Ana Mendieta's work you are in search of, this is not the text you want. However, if you are looking for a deeply fascinating, clearly well educated and researched text documenting this fine artist, you've found your match.

Loved this ones art

This book remains the most important text for anyone with a serious interest in Mendieta's work. Blocker's contribution adds tremendously to the study of performativity, feminism, and "identity." If I could offer something half as good to the world as either Mendieta's work or Blocker's, I'd be thrilled.

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