



Alternative Histories

New York Art Spaces, 1960-2010

Edited by [Lauren Rosati \(/contributors/lauren-rosati\)](#) and [Mary Anne Staniszewski \(/contributors/mary-anne-staniszewski\)](#)

A groundbreaking history of pioneering alternative art venues in New York where artists experimented, exhibited, and performed outside the white cube and the commercial mainstream.

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Review

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In some 400 pages this book provides thumbnail sketches of more than 140 alternative spaces and related organizations, including the artist-run restaurant Food, Bomb magazine and the activist group Gran Fury...This is an indispensable source book that leaves you wanting more – specifically, individual studies of some of the organizations it covers. It stands as a vibrant and irrefutable evidence of what happens when people take things into their own hands.

The New York Times

Overview **Author(s)** **Praise**

Summary

A groundbreaking history of pioneering alternative art venues in New York where artists experimented, exhibited, and outside the white cube and the commercial mainstream.

This groundbreaking book – part exhibition catalogue, part cultural history – chronicles alternative art spaces in New York City from the 1960s. Developed from an exhibition of the same name at Exit Art, *Alternative Histories* documents more than 130 alternative art spaces, groups, and projects, and the significant contributions these organizations have made to the aesthetic and social life of New York City. Alternative art spaces offer sites for experimentation for artists to innovate, perform, and exhibit outside the conventional gallery-and-museum circuit. In New York City, the development of alternative spaces was almost synonymous with the rise of the contemporary art scene. Beginning in the 1960s and early 1970s, it was within a network of alternative sites – including 111 West Street, The Kitchen, P.S.1, FOOD, and many others – that the work of young artists like Yvonne Rainer, Vito Acconci, Gordon Clark, Ana Mendieta, David Wojnarowicz, David Hammons, Adrian Piper, Martin Wong, Jimmie Durham, and dozens of other names first circulated.

Through interviews, photographs, essays, and archival material, *Alternative Histories* tells the story of such famous sites and organizations as Judson Memorial Church, Anthology Film Archives, A.I.R. Gallery, El Museo del Barrio, Franklin Furnace, as well as many less well-known sites and organizations. Essays by the exhibition curators and scholars, and excerpts of interviews with alternative space founders and staff, provide cultural and historical context.

Contributors Jacki Apple, Papo Colo, Jeanette Ingberman, Melissa Rachleff, Lauren Rosati, Mary Anne Staniszewski, He

Interviewees Steve Cannon, Rhys Chatham, Peter Cramer and Jack Waters, Carol Goodden, Alanna Heiss, Bob Lee, Joe Lockpez, Ann Philbin, Anne Sherwood Pundyk and Karen Yama, Irving Sandler, Adam Simon, Martha Wilson

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