

**Vanessa Place & Robert Fitterman**  
**NOTES ON CONCEPTUALISMS**

\$12 | ISBN: 978-1-933254-46-3  
Essay/Criticism  
80 pages | perfect-bound

**Release Date: May 1, 2009**

In their delightful and wise *Notes on Conceptualisms*, Vanessa Place and Robert Fitterman sketch out some exciting “conceptualist” alternatives, all of them having to do with creation—which is what art is all about. You won’t agree with all the aphorisms and formulations in this book, but it is guaranteed to keep you in your seat, turning its pages with real pleasure.—**Marjorie Perloff**

Both direct and oblique, *Notes* is itself a self-reflexive work of conceptual writing in the guise of theory; or is it a work of theory in the guise of conceptual writing? By smartly straddling the creative and critical, this book does twice the work toward our understanding of what it means to be contemporary.—**Kenneth Goldsmith**

In the process of deciphering Place and Fitterman’s heiroglyphic *Notes*, I learned more about the impact of conceptualism on artists and writers than I had from reading so-called canonical works on the subject.—**Mary Kelly**

Conceptual writing teaches us to write about the wrench, not the monkey. Take *Notes* and get the idea...  
—**Christian Bök**

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**ABOUT THE AUTHORS**

**Vanessa Place** is a writer and lawyer and cofounder of Les Figues Press. She is the author of *Dies: A Sentence* (Les Figues Press), a 50,000 word, one-sentence prose poem, and the post-conceptual epic *La Medusa* (Fiction Collective 2). Her nonfiction book, *The Guilt Project: Rape and Morality*, will be published by Other Press in 2010. Place is also a regular contributor to *X-TRA Contemporary Art Quarterly*, and is collaborating with Los Angeles conceptual artist Stephanie Taylor on the film *Murderous Squaredance at the Spiral Jetty*. The co-director of Les Figues Press has been described by critic Terry Castle as “an elegant vessel for experimental American writing of an extraordinarily assured and ingenious sort.”

**Robert Fitterman** was born in 1959 in Creve Coeur (broken heart), Missouri. He is the author of 10 books of poetry, including 3 installments of his ongoing poem *Metropolis: Metropolis 1-15* (Sun & Moon Press, 2000), *Metropolis 16-29* (Coach House Books, 2002), and *Metropolis XXX: The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* (Edge Books, 2004) and, forthcoming, *Sprawl: Metropolis 20A* (Make Now Books). Also forthcoming is *rob the plagiarist* (Roof Books)—a collection of essays, conceptual writing, and other writings generated by plagiarism and appropriation. Several of his books are collaborations with visual artists, including *war, the musical* with Dirk Rowntree (Subpress Books) and *The Sun Also Also Rises with Nayland Blake* (No Press). He lives in NYC with poet Kim Rosenfield and their daughter Coco. He teaches writing and poetry at NYU and in the Bard College, Milton Avery School of Graduate Studies.

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