

Ben Luzzatto THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING, ABRIDGED

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Artist's Book
364 pages | Smythe-sewn with 38 color plates

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In *The Theory of Everything, Abridged*, artist Ben Luzzatto puts to work a combination of text, image, and the documentation of his site-specific performance experiments in the service of his hypothesis that any reconciliation of quantum theory with general relativity will ultimately have more to do with the language we are using to describe the universe than with the discovery of any extra-dimensional physical reality. Each of the three sections of this book examines a different aspect of the same base assumption — that we are both a part of the world and separate from it at the same time. Convincing fictions feel as if they are discoveries, as if they are somehow “already there”; the same should be true of any description of reality worth noting. *The Theory of Everything, Abridged* has that “discovered” quality to it. It also has a hole carved out of its center.

“Attempting to replicate a cloud in all four dimensions, simulating the fall of a leaf from a branch, altering the color of an object while retaining its identity are all examples of Ben Luzzatto’s unconventional art practice. While achieving these goals may be futile, attempting to attain them is opportune because it articulates a profound challenge confronting humans in the 21st century. His work sheds the vestiges of a culture founded on egocentricity and individuality. It contributes to the redefining of ‘self’ according to contemporary ecological mandates based upon relationships, connections, and dependencies. Luzzatto contributes to the evolution of a new era by dramatizing the integration of each person with larger human and non-human environments.”

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ben Luzzatto completed his undergraduate work at Vassar College and earned a Master’s Degree in Visual Studies from MIT. After a stint teaching 3D Design at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, Ben joined the faculty of the Interdisciplinary Sculpture department at The Maryland Institute, College of Art, where he teaches now. Born in Washington DC in 1970, Ben currently resides there with his wife and three daughters.

—Linda Weintraub
Editor, *Art Now*

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