



**Case Study:  
The Couple in a Cage:  
Two Amerindians  
Visit the West**  
Kate Sutton

"What you look at?" These were the words spray-painted across Pat Ward Williams's eponymous 1993 billboard-sized photograph of five black youths, sitting passively on a stoop. The image adorns the foyer of the Whitney Museum, hung just above the restaurant as part of the institution's notorious 1993 biennial. Curated by Elizabeth Sussman in collaboration with Thelma Golden, John G. Hanhardt, and Lisa Phillips, the show was widely reviled for its overt political stance and provocations like the inclusion of footage of Rodney King's 1992 beating by the Los Angeles Police Department amid works by Jimmie Durham, Lorna Simpson, Kenne Green, Fred Wilson, Glenn Ligon, Justin Amos, and Matthew Barney.

In one of the more generous reviews of the time (history has been kinder to the exhibition than its contemporaries were), *The New York Times*' critic Roberta Smith hailed the show as a "watershed" that was "less about the art of our time than about the times themselves." While acknowledging the presence of "numerously large numbers of nonwhite artists, artists whose work is openly gay, and women"—a curious phrasing—Smith then contrasted the contributions of those participants against those by White male artists, lamenting that "the unfortunate impression created is that to succeed, the art of minority artists and women must be closely tied to their personal

Roberta Smith, 'No to Whiteness: A Biennial With a Social Conscience,' in *The New York Times*, March 8, 1993, Section C, p. 1.



## Navigating the Planetary

A guide to the planetary art world – its past, present, and potentials

£28.00

'Navigating the Planetary' points to an interconnected art world that transcends not only art's old Eurocentric models, but also the 'global' with a more holistic approach. The 'planetary' has become a buzzword, yet navigating it remains a major challenge for many artists, curators, critics, and other art practitioners.

This volume is a guidebook for readers looking for entry points into planetary approaches to contemporary art. It is for researchers already in the field, but also for those who don't know where to begin.

Through essays, case studies, and interviews situated in the past, present, and looking to the future, this book explores people, institutions, and thoughts that are shifting or dissolving East/West and Global North/South binaries.

This book also asks: Why navigate the planetary at all—and is the desire to do so part of a political agenda? Do global or planetary networks offer solutions to cultural problems, and how are these networks best established and maintained? And how can or should education support a planetary or global consciousness or approach to art?

'Navigating the Planetary' attempts to answer these questions, as well as offer a sense of possibility.

Includes contributions from various international artists such as Kader Attia, Sammy Baloji, Tania Bruguera, and the Raqs Media Collective; and also influential writers/researchers such as Charles Esche, Stephanie Bailey, Kimberly Bradley, and Peter Osbourne.

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Author(s)	Rahel Aima, Hilegund Amanshauser, Kader Attia, Stephanie Bailey, Sammy Baloji, Kimberly Bradley, Sabine Breitwieser, Tania Bruguera, Roger M. Buergele, Shuddhabrata Sengupta with the Raqs Media Collective, Clémentine Deliss, Rosalyn D'Mello, Charles Esche, Olamiju Fajemisin, Marina Fokidis, Alexander Koch, Christian Kravagna, Bonaventure Soh Bejeng Ndikung, Peter Osborne, Fernando Resende, Mohammad Salemy, Nina Siegal, Chloe Stead, Sanjukta Sunderason, Kate Sutton, Simone Wille
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