

MIRIAM CAHN AN INDEPENDENT SPIRIT

The Swiss artist Miriam Cahn explores political and social themes in her work. Writing has permeated Cahn's artistic career. She sheds light on her own works and comments on artistic or global events. Now, *WRITING IN RAGE* is the first volume of her correspondence and texts from four decades.

Berlin, February 26, 2019 — Over the years the Swiss artist Miriam Cahn's work has taken on many shapes. It ranges from drawing and paintings, to photography and film, to performance art and sculpture. Her recent presentations at the documenta 14 in Athens and Kassel (2017) proved beyond a doubt that Cahn (*1949, Basel) is one of the most important artists of her generation.

Few artists comment upon their own work with such literary consequence as Miriam Cahn does. Her texts accompany the works, referring to her relationships to family and close friends, as well as to her attitude toward gender relations and her view of the art world and current events of the day. Without digressing, she exposes her own family history in image and text, examining themes such as her own desires, the process of aging, and her uncompromising search for a completely independent way of life.

Humanist principles are of central importance to Miriam Cahn. She is appalled when human rights are violated, and becomes a kind of Cassandra, warning us about—and also fighting for—themes that strike others dumb. Her anger is the motor that drives her. Her utterances are subjective, expressive, and occasionally aggressive. Yet, Cahn chooses her modes of expression carefully. She shies away from routine, and tosses away methods and styles that have fizzled out.

"I / wanted to become an artist / to become Picasso / Munch Goya Michelangelo / to make infinite columns like Brancusi / animals like Franz Marc / angels like Klee / to be an artist / unconditionally / absolutely / free / to live like a man [...]," writes Cahn, describing her work in her text *memory forgetting womanartisti*.

WRITING IN RAGE is the first volume to compile four decades' worth of Miriam Cahn's essays, journal entries, and correspondence with friends, foes, family members, and gallerists. The book provides very personal insights into Cahn's life, her family, and the art world, introducing the reader to a militant, independent spirit. Cahn considers her texts equal to her art and plainly reveals what moves her. "Writing provides a certain clarity," she says.

The exhibition *I AS HUMAN* is currently on display at the Kunstmuseum Bern. Other shows have been announced for the following locations: Kunsthaus Bregenz, Reina Sofia Madrid, the Haus der Kunst in Munich, and the Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw.



**MIRIAM CAHN
WRITING IN RAGE**

Graphic design by Ludovic Balland, translated by
Richard Humphrey, texts by Miriam Cahn, ed.

Miriam Cahn

English

2019. 298 pp.,

Softcover

16.00 x 24.00 cm

ISBN 978-3-7757-4487-4

E-Book: 21,99 EUR [ISBN 978-3-7757-4579-6]

25,00 EUR

ABOUT HATJE CANTZ

Hatje Cantz is a groundbreaking international publishing company specializing in art, architecture, and photography. Since 1945 Hatje Cantz has been using its profound expertise and enthusiasm for craftsmanship to produce and publish books of the highest quality. We currently release around two hundred new titles annually.

Especially in the digital age, Hatje Cantz regards itself an element linking museums, artists, galleries, collectors, and art lovers. Conveying knowledge - in terms of both content and visuals - as well as an enthusiasm for art is always at the heart of our engagement.

In keeping with our ambition to make it possible to experience art beyond the medium of the book, Hatje Cantz has launched the EDITION GERD HATJE as we continue to expand our portfolio of strictly limited, signed editions featuring works on paper, photographic works of art, and art objects.

www.hatjecantz.de

www.editiongerdhatje.com

PRESS CONTACT

Jennifer Berndt

Press Director

presse@hatjecantz.de

Tel. +49 30 3464678-23

**HATJE
CANTZ**