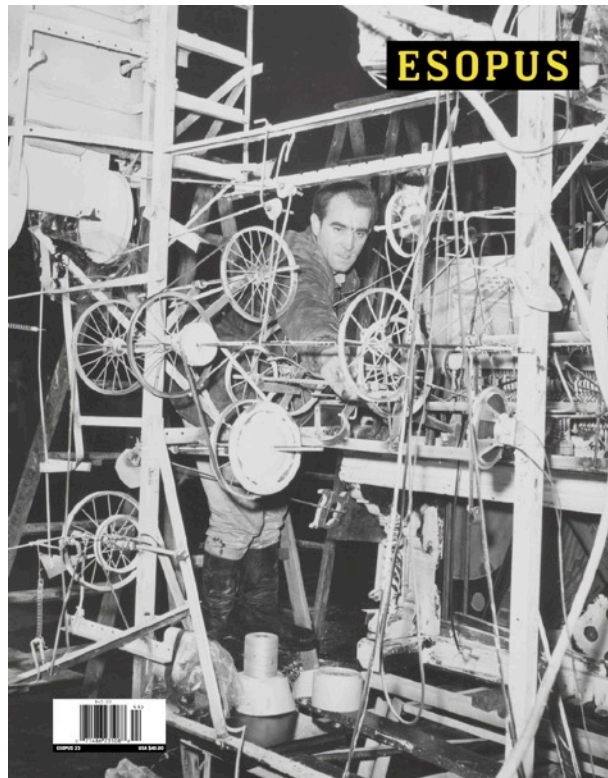


ESOPUS

ESOPUS 23 LAUNCHES AT MOMA ON MAY 11TH

The latest issue of the nonprofit arts annual includes contributions from Karl Ove Knausgaard, Marilyn Minter, and Mickalene Thomas.



Cover of *Esopus* 23

Photo ©Estate of David Gahr (from the MoMA Archives, NY)

[FACEBOOK](#)

[TWITTER](#)

[SOUNDCLOUD](#)

For Immediate Release: New York, NY, April 12, 2016

Esopus 23, the latest issue of the award-winning nonprofit arts annual, will launch on May 11, 2015, at an event at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. The issue hits bookstores that same week, and several other events related to its release are scheduled throughout the spring.

At 254 pages, it's the largest, most complex *Esopus* ever, utilizing 15 different paper stocks; incorporating multiple die-cuts, embossing, metallic inks, and specialty varnishes; and featuring a number of removable inserts, ranging from posters to collectible artworks.

Esopus 23 includes stunning artists' projects by **Marilyn Minter** (a brand-new series of work—

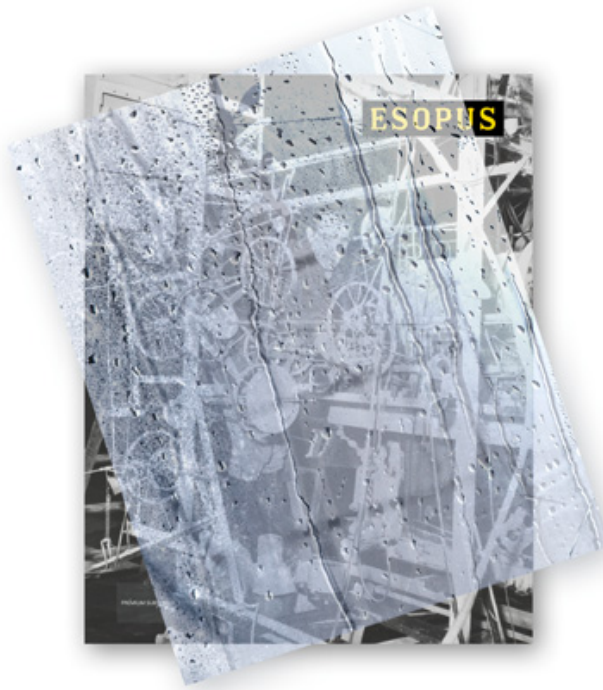
including a removable insert—incorporating metallic and translucent specialty papers); **Mickalene Thomas** (a mesmerizing collection of collaged images created for the issue including die-cuts, embossing, and specialty varnishes—and another detachable insert); **Karo Akpokiere** (a beautiful series of drawings, perforated for easy removal by readers, by the Lagos- and Berlin-based artist dealing with the challenges related to moving between two distinctly different cultures); **Jody Wood** (an in-depth look at the artist's most recent iteration of her "Beauty in Transition" project, in which she provides hair-care and therapeutic services to homeless-shelter residents and their caregivers); **Chuck Kelton** (the master printer for photographers such as Mary Ellen Mark and Danny Lyon creates his own series of dramatic photogram "landscapes," including a stand-alone, frameable print); and **Stefan Kürten** (an exquisite series of drawings incorporating complex folds related to mirrored elements within the images themselves).

As always, the issue presents contributions from a range of other creative disciplines. *Esopus* 23 begins with a brilliant new long-form essay on the value of literature by the acclaimed Norwegian author **Karl Ove Knausgaard** (*My Struggle*), offered in the issue as a removable pamphlet. For our eighth subscriber invitational, "Local News," screenwriter **Hampton Fancher** (*Blade Runner*) wrote two engrossing film treatments (inspired by readers' submissions of local news stories) that are featured in the issue along with a conversation with Fancher about his creative process. The issue also includes an in-depth interview with **Raphael van Lierop**, the founder of Hinterland Studio, the independent video game developer responsible for groundbreaking survivalist game *The Long Dark*, along with visuals featuring a range of never-before-seen concept art for the game (as well as a 24" x 36" poster).

Esopus 23 offers new installments of several of the publication's regular series, including "100 Frames," showcasing stills from *The Adventures of Prince Achmed*, the pioneering 1926 animated feature directed by **Lotte Reiniger**, and introduced here by Oscar-winning filmmaker and historian **John Canemaker**; "Guarded Opinions," which provides insightful commentaries on artworks from the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia by two of its guards, **Joseph Klimczak Jr.** and **Fantasia Turner**; and "Modern Artifacts," our long-running collaboration with the **Museum of Modern Art Archives** that here presents a number of previously unpublished photographs and other documents related to 60 years' worth of events, installations, concerts, and performances in MoMA's iconic garden (introduced by Chief Archivist **Michelle Elligott**). The issue is rounded out by *Lost in Music*, a graphic novel by artist **George Cochrane** (produced in collaboration with his 12-year-old daughter, Fiamma Cochrane, as well as artist Richard Nonas and author William Sutton), and a poignant collection of over 100 anonymous photos from **Peter Cohen**, who has assembled one of the most significant archives of vernacular photography in the world.

Finally, *Esopus* 23 closes with a themed audio CD compilation. For it, *Esopus* asked 13 musical acts—**Kristin Andreassen**, **The Big Bright**, **Gabriel Birnbaum**, **Dollshot**, **Colin Gilmore**, **The Kickstand Band**, **Anthony LaMarca**, **Jo Lawry**, **Lemolo**, **Darren Solomon**, **Trees Take Ease**, **Grant Widmer**, and **YC the Cynic**—to use a "close call" from their life, ranging from near-death experiences to missed romantic opportunities, as inspiration for a song. *Listen to a preview podcast featuring song excerpts and interviews with LaMarca, Lawry, Solomon, and The Kickstand Band [here](#).*

In addition, artist **Marilyn Minter** has created a limited-edition artwork to be included with premium subscribers' copies of the issue. The insert, *Spray On*, a 9" x 11.5" archival inkjet print on transparent film, is related to Minter's project for the issue, and is available only to current *Esopus* premium subscribers.



Marilyn Minter's limited-edition artwork included with premium subscribers' copies

Issue Launch and Related Events

On Wednesday, May 11th from 6 to 8pm, *Esopus* 23 launches at the Museum of Modern Art Archives (4 West 54th Street, 6th Floor) on a terrace overlooking the Museum's sculpture garden. This event is free and open to the public, but RSVPs are required. **RSVP to info@esopus.org.**

On Monday, May 16th and Wednesday, May 18th, *Esopus* and the Museum of the Moving Image co-present two nights of films by and about legendary screenwriter **Hampton Fancher**, including a rare 70mm screening of *Blade Runner* (May 16th) and a screening of Fancher's directorial debut, *Minus Man* (with Owen Wilson), as well as an excerpt from Michael Almereyda's forthcoming documentary, *Hampton Lansden Fancher III* (May 18th). Fancher will be in attendance for both programs. These events are open to the public and accessible with an admission fee (\$12) to the museum, which is located at 36-01 35th Avenue in Queens, NY.

On Sunday, May 22nd at 7pm, *Esopus* will present an evening with the celebrated Norwegian author **Karl Ove Knausgaard** at BookCourt (163 Court Street, Brooklyn). The event is free and open to the public, but seating is limited.

On Wednesday, June 8th at 8pm, *Esopus* presents a night of "close calls" at the acclaimed Williamsburg music venue National Sawdust (80 N. 6th Street, Brooklyn). The evening will feature storytelling and musical performances by four contributors to the *Esopus* 23 "Close Calls" CD: **The Big Bright**, **Gabriel Birnbaum**, **Jo Lawry**, and **Darren Solomon**, as well as contributions from audience members. Open to the public; \$25 admission fee.

About *Esopus*

Called “a thing of lavish, eccentric beauty” by *The New York Times*, *Esopus* has garnered critical praise and a fervent following for its unfiltered, dynamic presentation of a wide range of creative expression since its founding in 2003. Past issues have featured projects by prominent contemporary artists, including Jenny Holzer, Ed Ruscha, John Baldessari and Richard Tuttle; themed CDs of brand-new music contributed by the likes of Grizzly Bear, Jens Lekman and Neko Case; and fiction, poetry, filmmaking, playwriting and art from hundreds of emerging and established voices, ranging from *Mad Men* creator Matthew Weiner to ballet choreographer Christopher Wheeldon.

The annual publication, which counts subscribers in 49 states and 27 countries, was founded with the goal of providing an unmediated space for a wide variety of creative disciplines, and as a result never includes commercially driven editorial content or advertisements. Single issues of *Esopus* are offered at a subsidized cover price in order to make the magazine available to a wider audience.

Domestic basic subscriptions to *Esopus* are \$30 for one year and \$45 for two years; domestic premium subscriptions, which include a special edition of the annual issue as well as a stand-alone artist's edition released each fall, are \$75 for one year and \$140 for two years. More information about subscribing to *Esopus* or purchasing single issues can be found at our [online store](#).

About The Esopus Foundation Ltd.

Founded in 2003, The Esopus Foundation Ltd. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing an affordable, accessible forum through which artists, writers and musicians can make a direct connection with the general public. In addition to the publication of *Esopus*, the Foundation has also programmed exhibitions, events, and performances with institutions including The Kitchen, the Museum of Modern Art, P.S.1/MoMA, White Columns, Pioneer Works Center for Art and Innovation, and the Museum of the Moving Image. From 2009 to 2012, the Foundation ran Esopus Space, an intimately scaled exhibition and performance venue in Greenwich Village.

#

For more information, please visit www.esopus.org or contact:

Tod Lippy
T: +1 (212) 473-0919
E: tod@esopus.org



Karl Ove Knausgaard, *On the Value of Literature* (removable pamphlet from *Esopus 23*)



Spread from *Spray On*, 2016, an artist's project by Marilyn Minter from *Esopus 23*



Spread from *Together*, 2016, an artist's project by Mickalene Thomas from *Esopus 23*

All images © the contributors and Esopus Foundation Ltd.