



Daniel Johnston

By Philippe Vergne, Jad Fair, Harvey Pekar

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Daniel Johnston only ever dreamt of two things: he wanted to be a rock star and he wanted to be a famous artist. Amazingly enough, he succeeded at both. Today he is an acclaimed indie music star whose charmingly twisted songs have been covered by the likes of Beck, Yo La Tengo, and TV on The Radio. His artwork appears in galleries throughout the world and was featured in the 2006 Whitney Biennial. Johnston's pen and colored marker drawings contain a range of characters, some benign or heroic, and others quite disturbing. In his complex world, good battles evil attended to by an assortment of playful characters. Johnston's world is also informed by his conservative Christian upbringing, and filled with depictions of biblical vengeance and salvation. Looking at his work, we are reminded of Heironymous Bosch as much as DC Comics. Daniel Johnston contains over 150 full color illustrations, many taken from the artist's private archives and never seen before. There is also commentary and analysis by the Walker Art Center's Philippe Vergne, alt-rock luminary Jad Fair, and underground comic legend, Harvey Pekar. "I see him as an artist on the periphery of the art world, but not an outsider artist . . . It's impressive when you see the consistency of the work."—Philippe Vergne

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Editorial Review

Review

"...at once gag cartoon and surrealist exercise, the picture leaves an unpronounced residue of sorrow, poignant and deeply, wonderfully weird." ~*Bookforum*

"Rizzoli releases Daniel Johnston, the first collection of visual works from one of the most misunderstood and enigmatic musicians of our time." ~*Black Book*

"The mini-essays from Jad Fair and Harvey Pekar are a nice touch." ~*Vice Magazine*

"The long overdue *Daniel Johnston* (Rizzoli) will be an eye-opener to anyone who only knows the Texan's off-kilter pop music." ~*The San Antonio Current*

"But his art is finally getting its due—and the coffee table book treatment—with the aptly titled Daniel Johnston." ~*Nylon*

"...The new monograph Daniel Johnston sets out to rectify that...The handsome book features essays from Dia Art Foundation director Philippe Vergne and Half Japanese singer/guitarist Jad Fair, as well as a slack-jawed appreciation by Harvey Pekar." ~*Mens.style.com*

About the Author

Philippe Vergne, newly appointed director of the DIA Art Foundation, was formerly chief curator and associate director of the Walker Art Center and co-curated the 2006 Whitney Biennial, in which Johnston's work was included. Jad Fair is an alt-rock elder statesman who led the influential band, Half-Japanese. He is also a respected visual artist in his own right. Harvey Pekar is author of the influential underground comic book series, *American Splendor*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Toni Styer:

Now a day people who Living in the era where everything reachable by connect to the internet and the resources inside can be true or not involve people to be aware of each details they get. How many people to be smart in having any information nowadays? Of course the solution is reading a book. Examining a book can help folks out of this uncertainty Information especially this Daniel Johnston book as this book offers you rich facts and knowledge. Of course the knowledge in this book hundred percent guarantees there is no doubt in it you know.

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