

# Maurizio Cattelan: The Provocative Genius Behind "All"

In the realm of contemporary art, Maurizio Cattelan stands as a towering figure, renowned for his audacious provocations and unconventional practices. His work, characterized by its biting wit and penetrating insights, has captivated and confounded audiences worldwide.



## Maurizio Cattelan: All

★★★★☆ 4.9 out of 5



"Maurizio Cattelan: All" is a comprehensive and meticulously curated monograph that offers an unparalleled exploration of the artist's prodigious career. Spanning decades of boundary-pushing creations, this publication illuminates the multifaceted genius of Cattelan, delving into the themes, inspirations, and controversies that have shaped his artistic trajectory.

## The Early Years: Subverting Conventions

Born in Padua, Italy, in 1960, Maurizio Cattelan emerged as an artistic force to be reckoned with in the late 1980s. His formative years were

marked by a relentless questioning of established norms and an irreverent approach to artistic practice.

One of Cattelan's earliest and most iconic works, "Lullaby" (1994), features a life-sized wax figure of a policeman with his pants down. This provocative piece, which playfully subverts authority figures, became a defining statement of Cattelan's mischievous and provocative style.

### **"9th Hour" and the Shock Factor**

In 1999, Cattelan's controversial sculpture "9th Hour" sent shockwaves through the art world. Depicting Pope John Paul II struck down by a meteorite, this work sparked both outrage and fascination, challenging the boundaries of artistic expression and religious iconography.

The inclusion of "9th Hour" in "All" provides an in-depth examination of the work's genesis, reception, and its lasting impact on contemporary art. Cattelan's unapologetic use of religious imagery and his willingness to confront taboo subjects have cemented his status as a provocateur who pushes the limits of artistic discourse.

### **"La Nona Ora" and the Power of the Symbol**

"La Nona Ora" (The Ninth Hour), a version of "9th Hour" reimagined for the façade of Milan's Palazzo Borsa in 2013, is another highlight of "All." This iteration of the sculpture further amplifies the work's potency, situating it within the urban landscape and inviting viewers to confront its powerful symbolism.

Through detailed analysis and archival material, "All" explores the multifaceted meanings embedded within "La Nona Ora." Cattelan's use of a

religious icon as a catalyst for public debate and introspection underscores his mastery of symbolism and his profound engagement with contemporary social issues.

## **"Comedian" and the Art of Duplicity**

In 2019, Cattelan created one of his most daring works to date:

"Comedian," a fully functional banana duct-taped to a wall at Art Basel Miami Beach. This seemingly absurd piece sparked a global sensation, becoming an instant viral phenomenon and igniting discussions about the nature of art, value, and commodification.

"All" presents an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at the creation and reception of "Comedian." Cattelan's calculated subversion of traditional gallery conventions and his uncanny ability to capture the zeitgeist are examined in depth, providing a fascinating glimpse into the mind of a true artistic innovator.

## **"All": A Comprehensive Retrospective**

"Maurizio Cattelan: All" is an invaluable resource for anyone interested in contemporary art, provocation, and the enduring legacy of Maurizio Cattelan. With its exhaustive coverage of the artist's most significant works, its insightful analysis, and its wealth of archival material, this monograph is the definitive guide to Cattelan's groundbreaking oeuvre.

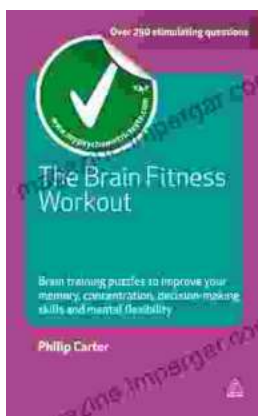
From the subversive humor of "Lullaby" to the profound symbolism of "La Nona Ora" and the viral sensation of "Comedian," "All" offers a captivating journey through the mind and work of a true artistic provocateur. Maurizio Cattelan's fearless exploration of taboo subjects, his mastery of symbolism,

and his uncanny ability to incite public discourse have cemented his place as one of the most influential and enigmatic artists of our time.



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