

# Kavi Gupta

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April 3, 2020

Dear Kavi Gupta Community,

Today we're excited to launch *Art in Lockdown*, a series inspired by the global health crisis where we visit with artists through multimedia platforms such as zoom. With this series we hope to bring a bit of joy, and most importantly, a reminder that you're not alone in whatever you may be feeling during this uneasy time.

First we check in with Deborah Kass as she navigates the pandemic and is staying optimistic from her Long Island beach house. The photos utilized were taken by the team during a visit with the artist in her Brooklyn studio on March 5th, just weeks before the stay at home order was put in place.

In the uncertain times we're living in, it is important to stay in touch with those we love; in this series we do just that. Join us as we check in with our artists!

Enjoy, and be well!

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## ART IN LOCKDOWN *DEBORAH KASS*

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Deborah Kass (born 1952) is an American artist whose work explores the intersection of pop culture, contemporary art, and the construction of self. Kass is a great lover of film, music, comics and other mass media, and a rigorous student of art history, and she considers all human creative endeavors as useful material from which to draw. Intersecting these different fields of cultural production allows for deconstructive examination of power, meaning, and value.

Says Kass, "I use history as a readymade. I use the language of painting to talk about value and meaning. How has art history constructed power and meaning? How has it reflected the culture at large? How does art and the history of art describe and reinscribe power?"

Since her exploration of Warhol throughout the 1990s, Kass's practice has expanded and moved through dynamic new phases. Her two chief bodies of work in the past twenty years have been *feel good paintings for feel bad times* and *No Kidding*, the former self-descriptively seeking to create optimistic work for difficult times, and the latter playing with language to create puns which describe the complications of the world today. Appropriating aesthetic tools from figures like Kelly, Nauman, Stella and Ruscha, among others, Kass's new work has a meditative quality behind the graphic impact of the rich color and bold text.

This September Kavi Gupta will present Kass' inaugural solo exhibition at the gallery's Elizabeth St. location.



*Art in Lockdown: Deborah Kass, 2020*

**FROM THE INTERVIEW:**

"I'm Deborah Kass and I am at my bungalow at the beach at East Atlantic Beach, Long Island, New York—I'm grateful to say. And I've been here for almost three weeks. Not quarantine. Not isolation. I'm here with my wife, Patricia Cronin. And we've been socially distancing, and we are lucky we get to walk on the beach every day it's nice enough. I've been doing Tai Chi online with my instructor and surviving the plague. I do Alexander Technique, and my teacher does Tai Chi

and Alexander, so today we had an hour session. And there were students of hers from Paris, Cologne, somewhere in Switzerland, I can't remember, Brooklyn, here, she teaches all over the world, so it was a very international—Italy—we were a very international group of people this morning. And I'm learning it. It's not what I've ever done before. I've always kind of wanted to do it. Now she's doing this class and, oh boy, I got a lot of time now."



Deborah Kass in her studio in Brooklyn, NY. 2020 (pictured: *EVERYBODY*, 2019)



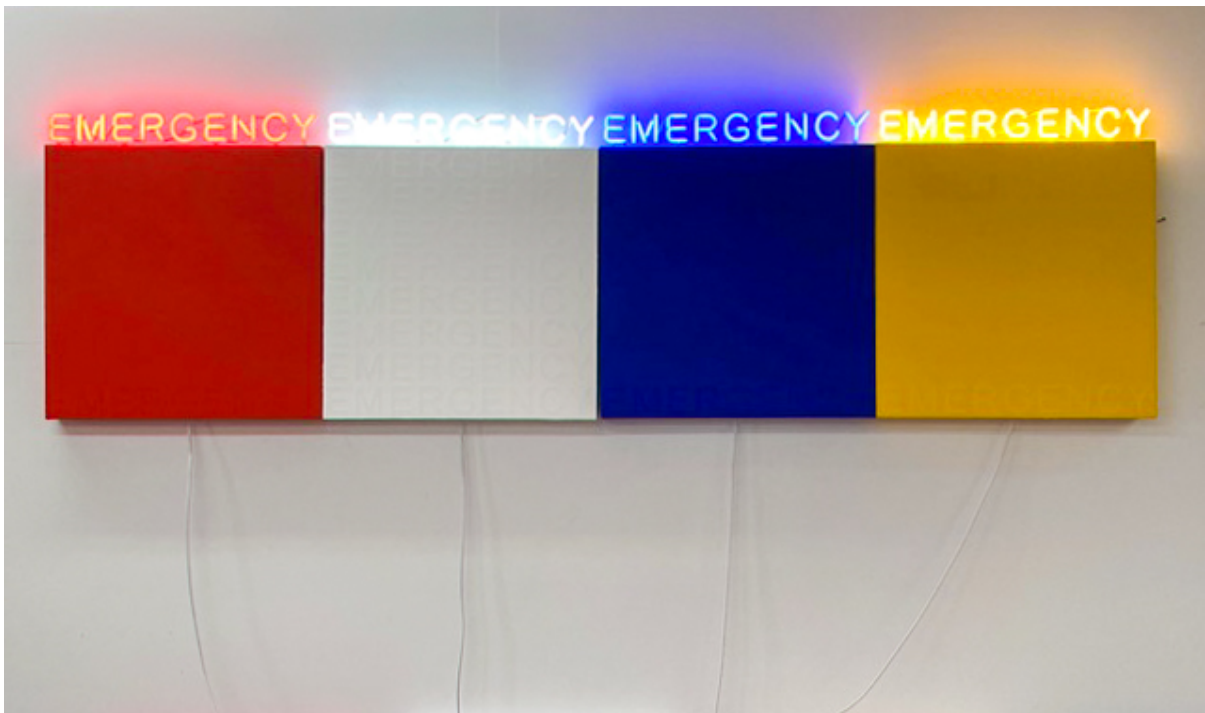
Deborah Kass' studio in Brooklyn, NY. 2020 (pictured: *DON'T STOP 3*, 2020 and *DON'T STOP 1*, 2020)

"Nassau county where I grew up is really infected. It's one of the highest infected counties in New York, so you know, there's that. But we're distant enough from people that it's not going to be a problem. But I'll tell you our neighbor across the street is a nurse. And it's bad, it's very bad

in her hospital. Every single bed is COVID. Last night at 7 o'clock we all came out on the block and clapped and banged pans. We are grateful to her and every other first responder. It's really daunting."



Deborah Kass' studio in Brooklyn, NY. 2020 (pictured: *AFTER LOUISE BOURGEOIS*, 2010)



Deborah Kass, *EMERGENCY (RED, WHITE, BLUE, YELLOW)*, 2019, acrylic, neon, individual canvases: 32 x 29 inches

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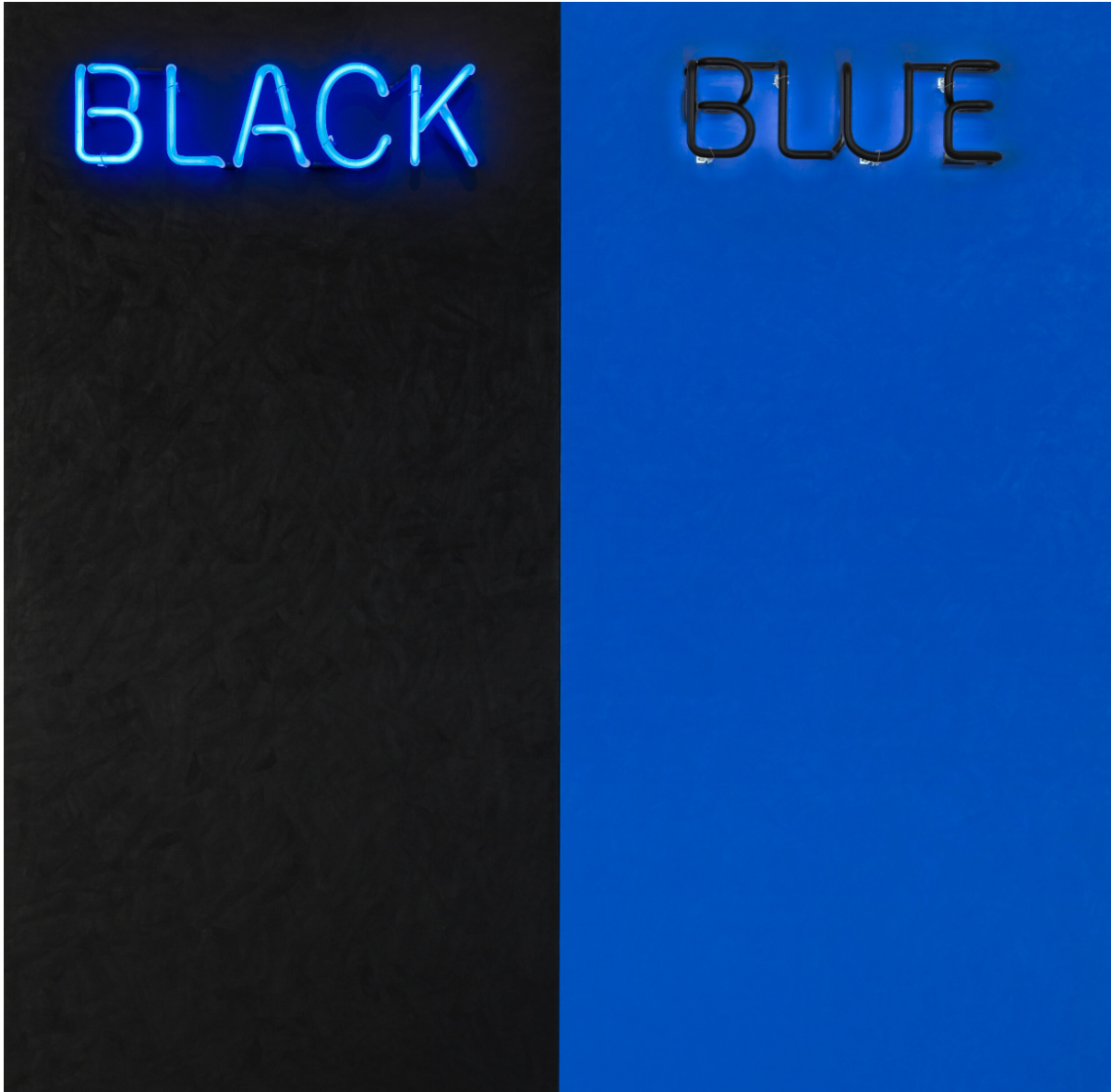
ON VIEW

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*HOW CAN WE THINK OF ART AT A TIME LIKE THIS?*

ONLINE GROUP EXHIBITION FEATURING DEBORAH KASS



Deborah Kass, *Black and Blue #2*, 2015, acrylic and neon on canvas, 72 x 72 inches

*How Can We Think of Art at a Time Like This?* is an exhibition without walls. Many artists have generously loaned the work to participate in the creation of a platform for free expression during a time of crisis. This may end in two weeks, two months, until November, or continue for long afterwards. In that vein, this exhibition will constantly expand, adding new artists regularly.

*How Can We Think of Art at a Time Like This?* is co-curated by Barbara Pollack and Anne Verhallen. On March 14th, 2020, in quick reaction to the US's gallery and museum closures, the two writers-curators and longtime collaborators immediately spent the weekend to kick start a group show to respond to the crisis.

[View the exhibition here.](#)

*OY/YO*  
CANTOR ARTS CENTER  
STANFORD UNIVERSITY, STANFORD, CA



Deborah Kass, *OY/YO* (installation view at the Cantor Arts Center), 2019, aluminum, polymer and clear coat, 96 x 194.5 x 52 inches. Photographer: Farrin Abbott

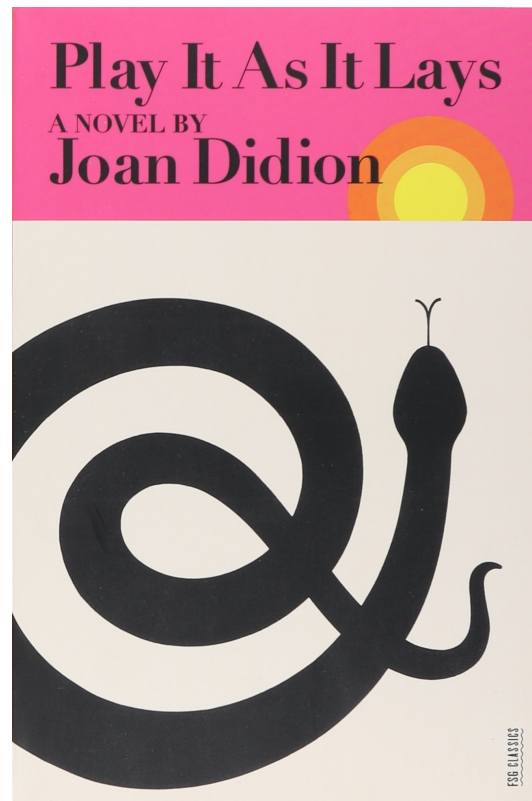
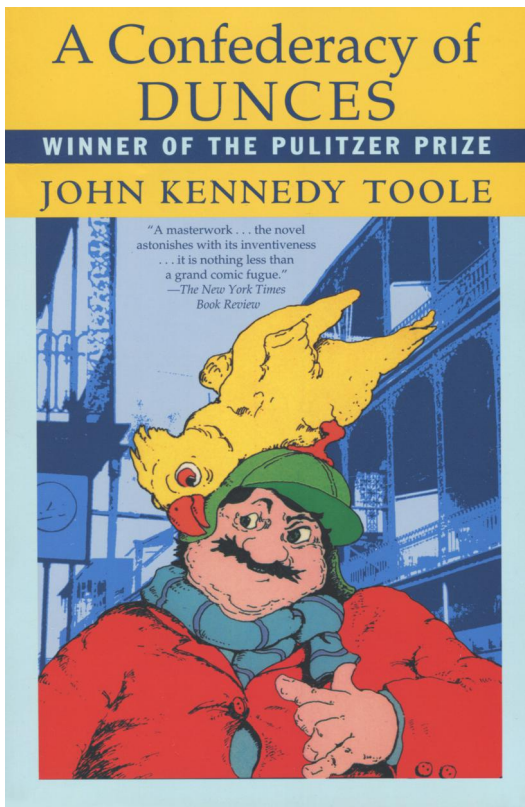
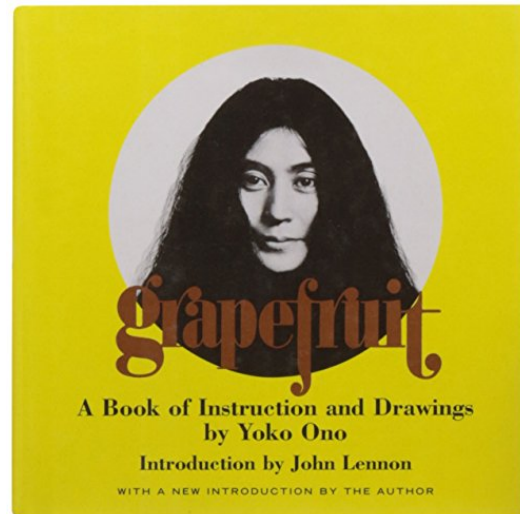
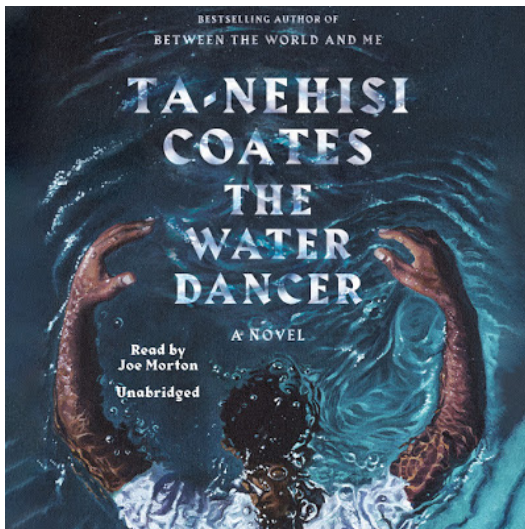
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# KG TEAM PICKS

## *WHAT WE'RE READING*

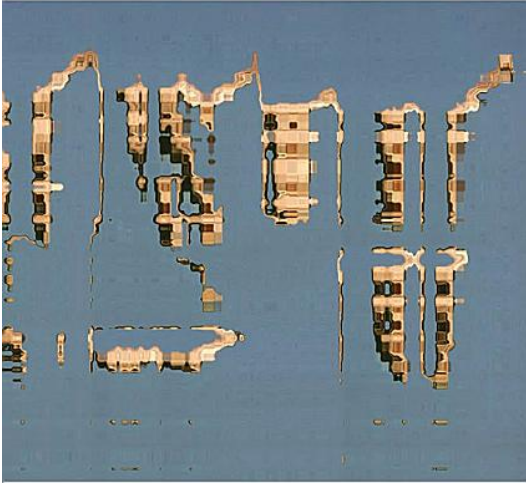
The Kavi Gupta Team is filled with avid readers, and time in quarantine has proven an excellent time to catch up on reading. Here are the pages everyone has been flipping through!

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REZA NEGARESTANI  
Intelligence and Spirit

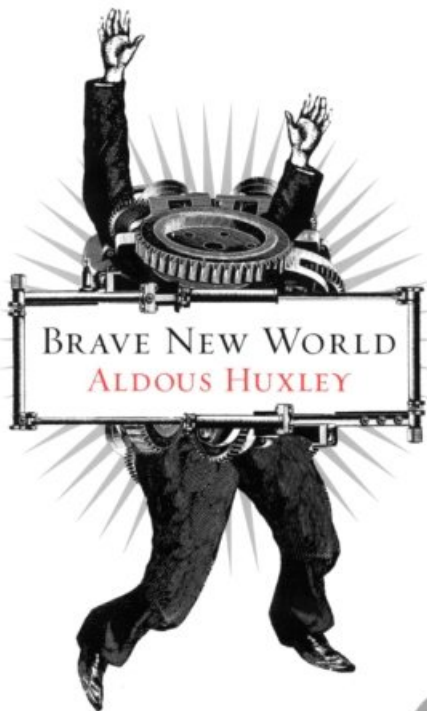


# SEVEN DAYS IN THE ART WORLD

SARAH THORNTON

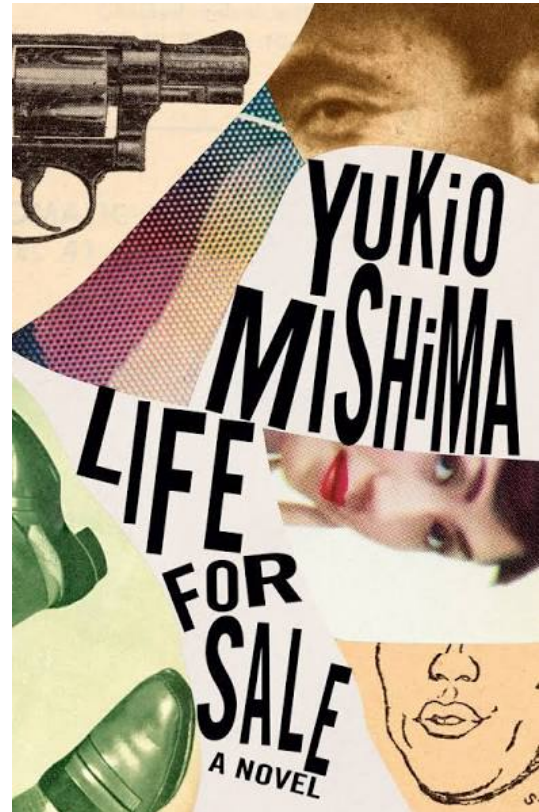


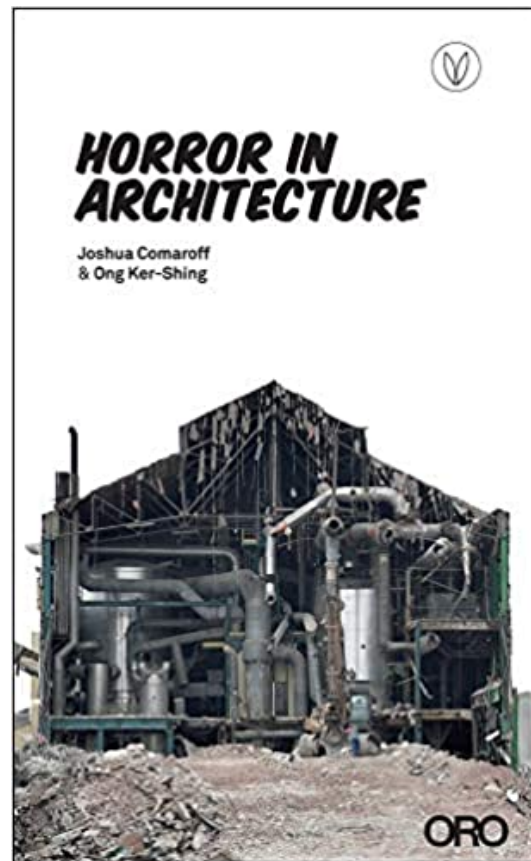
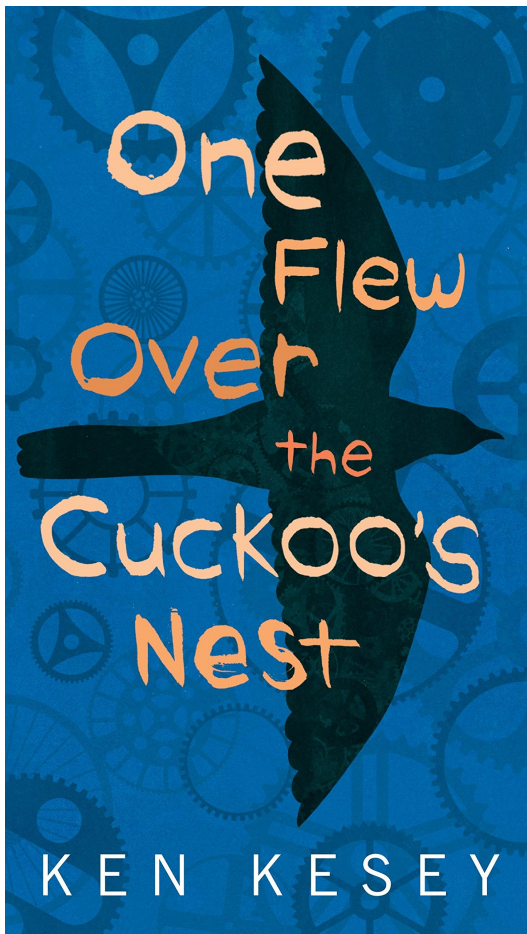
'AN EXCELLENT, VIVID,  
WITTILY WRITTEN BOOK'  
SUNDAY TIMES



18 PERENNIAL MODERN CLASSICS

P.S.  
INSIGHTS,  
INTERVIEWS  
& MORE...





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For further information please contact the gallery at  
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