THE VELVET UNDERGROUND: NEW YORK ART

Edited by Johan Kugelberg

Introduction by Lou Reed and Maureen Tucker

Preface by Vaclav Havel with text contributions by
Doug Yule, Sterling Morrison, John Wilcock, and Jon Savage

Timeline by Salvatore Mercuri

THE VELVET UNDERGROUND: NEW YORK ART (November 2009) is the first monograph devoted to a Rock and Roll band. The Velvet Underground were among the New York avant-garde who closed the gap between the popular arts and the fine art movement of the 20th century. With Andy Warhol at the helm, the band contextualized the hi-art/low-art medium of the dysphoric Sixties with a unique mixture of sound experimentation, performance art, and pop sensibility. With an astonishing assembly of rare objects and artworks and the first book of its scale to document the formative years of the band, The Velvet Underground: New York Art, is not only a testament to one of the greatest New York City bands, but also a visual document of how music can influence the history of fine art and vice versa.
From never-before-seen photographs of the band’s first live show in New York to Andy Warhol’s cover and poster designs, Lou Reed’s and John Cale’s handwritten music and lyrics, underground press clippings and controversial reviews, flyers, handbills, and posters, the materials comprise a uniquely comprehensive survey of the first rock group ever to transcend the genre and embrace underground popular culture.

The book features additional texts and photography by Lester Bangs, Richard Meltzer, Lance Loud, Salvatore Mercuri, Rob Morris, Adam Ritchie, Paul Morrissey, Lisa Law, Billy Name and Jonathan Richman, among others.

This beautifully illustrated book is the first to present a definitive picture of the band’s genesis and development in the extraordinary New York scene of the mid- to late-1960s.

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS:  **Lou Reed, Maureen Tucker, Sterling Morrison and Doug Yule** were members of the Velvet Underground.  **Johan Kugelberg** is a writer and curator who staged the 2007 exhibition “c/o The Velvet Underground, New York NY”.  **Vaclav Havel** is a playwright and author, and was the first president of the Czech Republic.  **Jon Savage** is the author of several books, including *England’s Dreaming*.

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