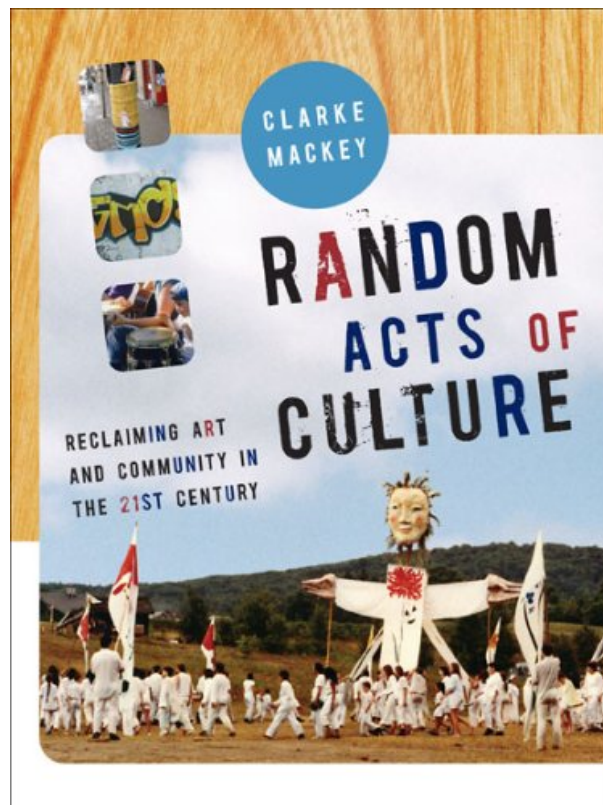
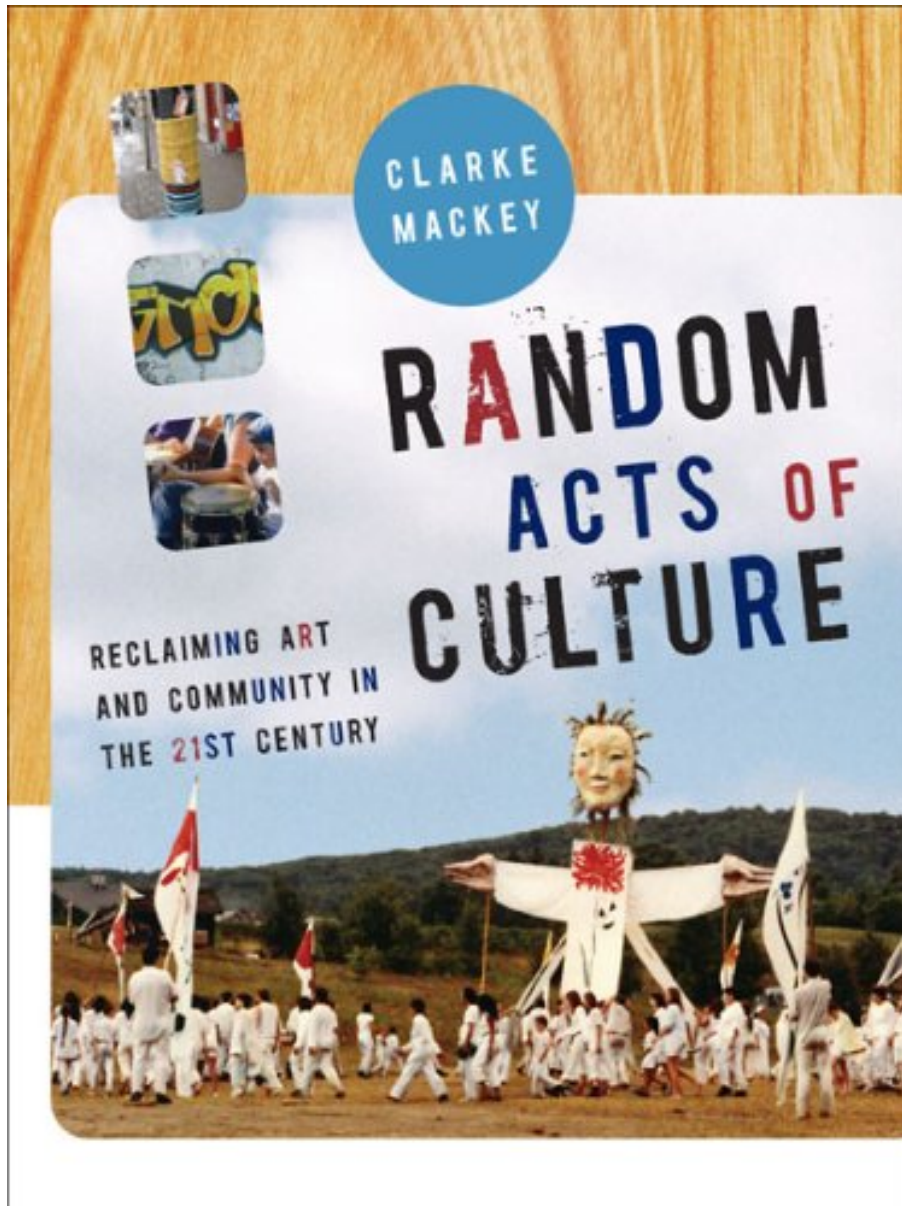


**RANDOM ACTS OF CULTURE:
RECLAIMING ART AND COMMUNITY IN
THE 21ST CENTURY BY CLARKE MACKEY**



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Review

PRAISE FOR RANDOM ACTS OF CULTURE

'Mackey writes lucidly and makes a solid argument for avoiding a world where every act of expression comes with an owner's manual or an entrance fee.'

-Quill & Quire

'Random Acts of Culture is revolutionary. It looks at why art is the way it is and how it could - and maybe should - be different'

-Kingston Whig-Standard

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'Clarke Mackey moves with panache from personal perspective into a bold interdisciplinary account of why art is the way it is in our present-day society, and how it could-and why it should-be otherwise.'

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About the Author

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In our society, cultural activity - or 'the arts' - usually refers to the high culture of the elites and popular mass culture. Clarke Mackey argues for a third category that is as old as human society itself but seldom discussed: vernacular culture.

Vernacular culture comprises all those creative, non-instrumental activities that people engage in daily - activities that provide meaning in life: conversations between friends, social gatherings and rituals, play and participatory sports, informal storytelling, musical jam sessions, cooking and gardening, homemade architecture, and street festivals. In this lively and eclectic discussion, Mackey maintains that practising and celebrating such activities at the expense of passive, consumer culture have far-reaching benefits. Mackey further examines how literacy, imperialism, industrialization and electronic technologies have produced a culture of spectatorship, apathy and powerlessness.

This is a timely, considered, and provocative response to the popularity of amateur, participatory, and do-it-yourself culture available on the internet.

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