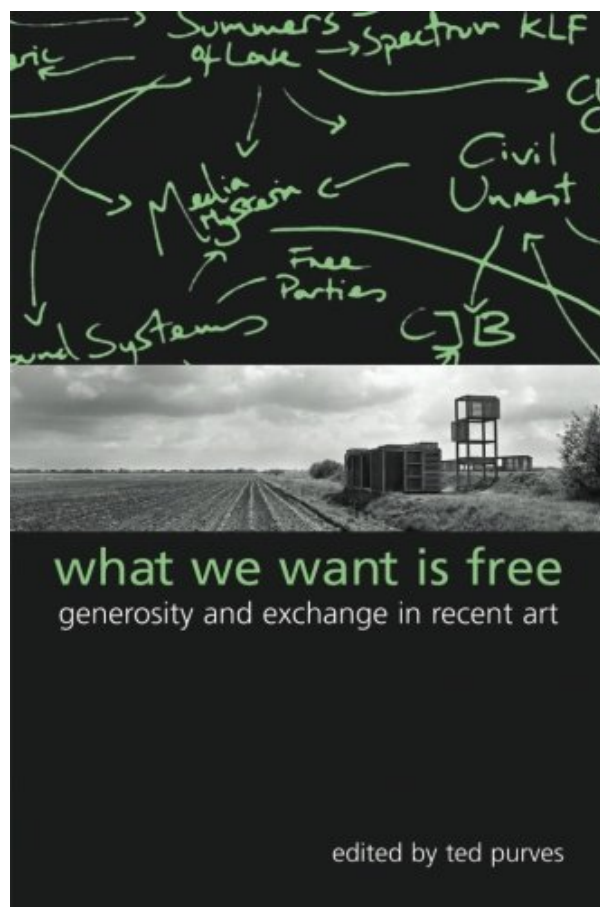
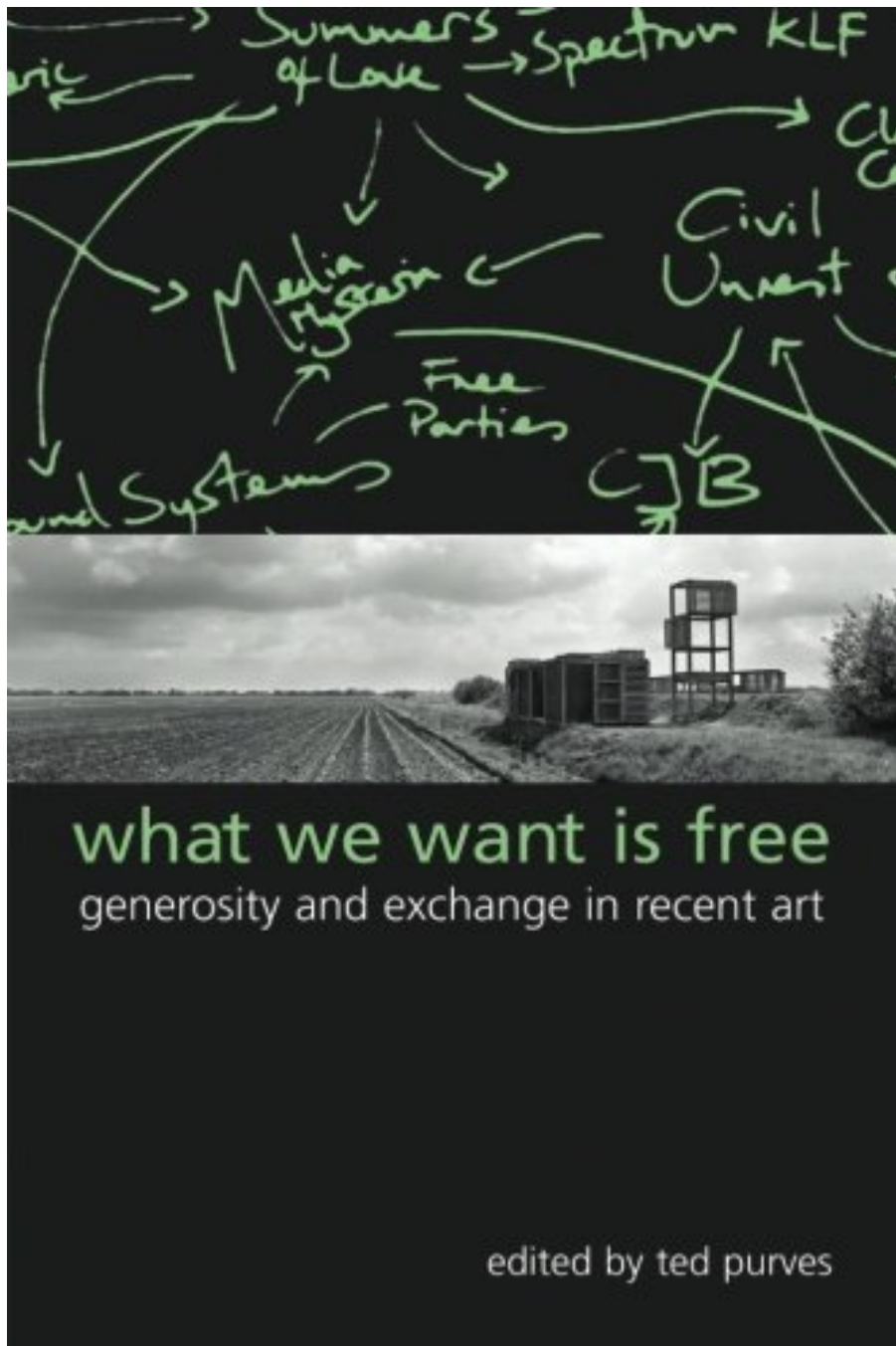


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Review

"What We Want is Free makes a genuine contribution to current discussions and debates concerning art, politics, and culture."

About the Author

Ted Purves is Chair of the Graduate Program in Fine Arts at the California College of the Arts.

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Examines the way recent artists have incorporated concepts of generosity into their work.

Through a variety of lenses, this book examines contemporary artists' use of the "gift"—the distribution of goods and services—as a medium for artistic production. Featuring a detailed survey of over fifty artists' projects from fifteen countries, *What We Want Is Free* explores how these artists use their projects to connect participants to tangible goods and services that they might need, enjoy, and benefit from. Samples of these various projects include the creation of free commuter bus lines and medicinal plant gardens; the distribution of such services as free housework or computer programming; and the production of community media projects such as free commuter newspapers and democratic low-wattage radio stations.

“If you are an artist, read this book. No matter how you define and structure your practice, the essays within *What We Want Is Free* will lead you to consider important questions about how you work and what kind of life a project can lead.” — Nailed Magazine

"*What We Want Is Free* makes a genuine contribution to current discussions and debates concerning art, politics, and culture." — Ron Scapp, coeditor of *Eating Culture*

Contributors include Bill Arning, Stacy Asher, Kate Fowle, Jeanne van Heeswijk, Jessica Ingram, Mary Jane Jacob, Ben Kinmont, Lars Bang Larsen, Carolyn Mackin, Francis McIlveen, Jarrett Mitchell, Cesare Pietroiusti, Ted Purves, Shane Aslan Selzer, Susan Sobeloff, Josho Somine, and Jörgen Svensson.

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About the Author

Ted Purves is Chair of the Graduate Program in Fine Arts at the California College of the Arts.

Most helpful customer reviews

21 of 23 people found the following review helpful.

save your soul with art

By GM

This book probably isn't an obvious choice for a relaxation read. My roommate was surprised to see I was reading it and wasn't enrolled in some class that required me to. I ran across this book randomly in a library and I'm really glad I did. I guarantee you these short essays will get you thinking, get you excited and get you inspired--

especially if you are:

-a self-identified "artist" that wants to think about your role and responsibility as an artist, and the context within which you create

-or anyone who cares about our society and wants to know what they can do to affect change in peoples lives

-- to embody "every form of creative protest" you can think of, (as MLK says)

The book sags in some parts, but when it hits home it is spectacular.

The essays weave together to draw connections between art, society, commodity, violence, community, the small potential of meaning in a consumable object or idea, the strength found in human connection, and the awesome power of the small gesture.

It touches on the importance of societal critique (within yourself), but does so through positive examples of individual action. That makes this book inspirational; it unleashes the power of every person's creative potential.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Interesting topic

By Baranabus

but I ended up donating this one. I went to art school, conceptual art no less, and should've been prepared for the pedantic, irritating artspeak, but I wasn't.

0 of 37 people found the following review helpful.

What We Want Is Free: Generosity And Exchange In Recent Art

By A Walk

I haven't read it all yet, but what I have so far is interesting. I bought it because my professor was published in this book.

See all 3 customer reviews...

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