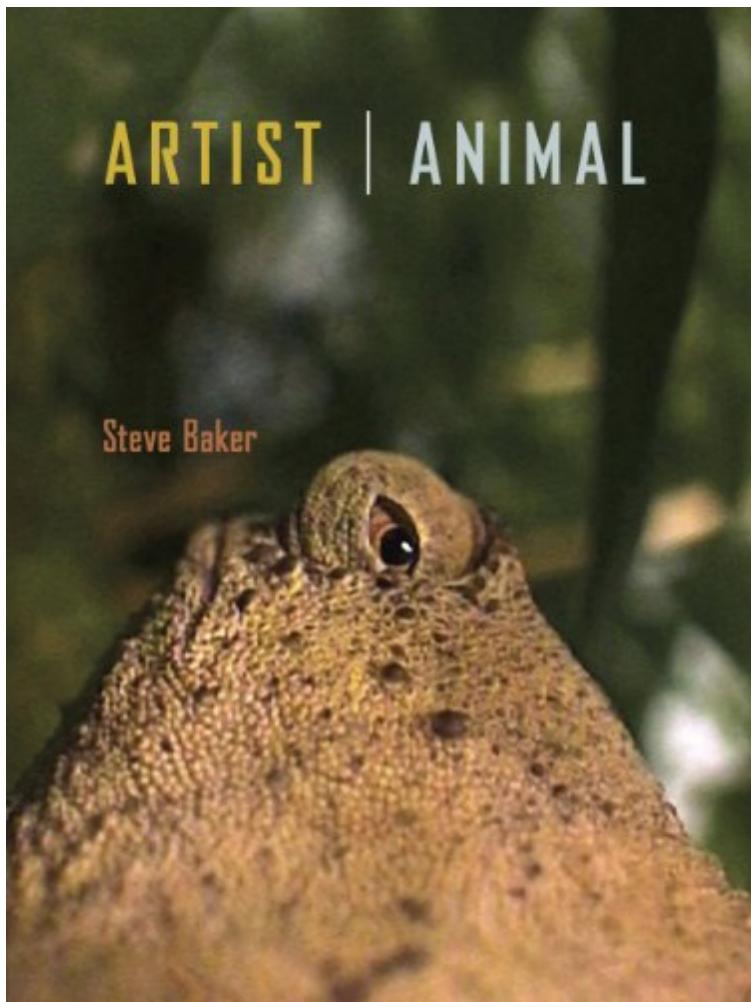


(Download) Artist Animal (Posthumanities)

## Artist Animal (Posthumanities)

Steve Baker

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**Steve Baker : Artist Animal (Posthumanities)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Artist Animal (Posthumanities):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. clear writing about complex questionsBy deanna pindellThe author considers each artist and their work carefully and empathetically. He actually understands the complexity of the works from the artist's point of view, while also striving to place the works in a philosophical context and an art-critical context. It is rare that I, as a professional artist, feel like my own experience as an artist has been respected by the critic who writes about the artwork ... Steve Baker clearly "gets it" as an artist himself.One of the underlying themes in these essays is that art is not meant to settle questions about the human-animal relationship, while philosophy and science do intend to define answers or at least boundaries. The range of artists chosen offers a significant range of ethical and aesthetic questions for the reader to chew on. An excellent contribution to the posthumanities studies.

Animals have always been compelling subjects for artists, but the rise of animal advocacy and posthumanist thought has prompted a reconsideration of the relationship between artist and animal. In this book, Steve Baker examines the work of contemporary artists who directly confront questions of animal life, treating animals not for their aesthetic qualities or as symbols of the human condition but rather as beings who actively share the world with humanity. The concerns of the artists presented in this book—Sue Coe, Eduardo Kac, Lucy Kimbell, Catherine Chalmers, Olly and Suzi, Angela Singer, Catherine Bell, and others—range widely, from the ecological to the philosophical and from those engaging with the modification of animal bodies to those seeking to further the cause of animal rights. Drawing on extensive interviews he conducted with the artists under consideration, Baker explores the vital contribution that contemporary art can make to a broader conception of animal life, emphasizing the importance of creativity and trust in both the making and understanding of these artworks. Throughout, Baker is attentive to issues of practice, form, and medium. He asks, for example, whether the animal itself could be said to be the medium in which these artists are working, and he highlights the tensions between creative practice and certain kinds of ethical demands or expectations. Featuring full-color, vivid examples of their work, *Artist Animal* situates contemporary artists within the wider project of thinking beyond the human, asserting art's power to open up new ways of thinking about animals.

"This book is a tremendous contribution to both contemporary art criticism and the emerging field of animal studies. I can think of no scholar better poised to offer innovative insight into how artists think about and work with animals than Steve Baker. With sensitivity and a rigorous ethnographer's eye, Baker investigates the complex attitudes and approaches artists employ when engaging the animal subject. What makes this beautiful book so successful is Baker's deep understanding of the nuance, intricacy, and contradictions in how artists work today." —Mark Dion