

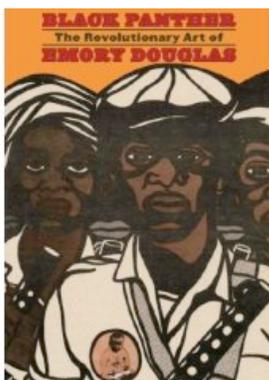
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BLACK PANTHER **THE EVOLUTIONARY ART OF EMORY DOUGLAS**

Edited by Sam Durant

Foreword by Danny Glover

USA—Formed in 1966 after the assassination of Malcolm X, The Black Panther Party for Self-Defense remains one of the most controversial and influential movements in the second half of the 20th century. Originally founded by Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale to further the American civil rights movement, this revolution rejected the tradition of systematic subjugation of African Americans. Emory Douglas, the party's eventual Revolutionary Artist and Minister of Culture, understood the need to convey and disseminate the party's information visually. His bold graphics, collaged from photographs and his own drawings, spoke forcefully to a community ravaged by poverty, police harassment, and poor living conditions.

In *Black Panther: The Evolutionary Art of Emory Douglas*, Douglas' creative genius and provocative graphics are gathered together and published for the first time. Featuring over 200 of the full-color images that played a significant role in defining the Party, *Black Panther: The Evolutionary Art of Emory Douglas* conveys the struggle against oppression, while expressing the radical spirit of many African Americans in the fight against institutionalized racism.

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Douglas' confrontational graphics popularized the epithet of "pig" for law enforcement, and his caricatures of corrupt government officials accompanied by fiery text are as powerful today as they were in the '70s. Incorporating photographs of both anonymous and identifiable characters into his designs, Douglas' work has an aesthetic appeal that seems to balance out the emotional intensity and political ferocity of his messages.

This volume brings together contributions of Douglas' comrades from the party and other luminaries in the fields of literature, film, and art. This powerful archive, published to coincide with Black History Month, reflects on Douglas' remarkable contribution to the history of American counter-culture, as well as the revolutionary impact of the Black Panther Party.

About the Contributors: **Sam Durant** is a Los Angeles-based artist whose work has been exhibited widely in the U.S. and abroad. He was first introduced to the work of Emory Douglas in the 1970s, which has had a major influence on his own art. **Danny Glover** is an actor, producer, and director best known for his *Lethal Weapon* movies. He attended San Francisco State during the years the Black Panther Party was active in the Bay Area. He credits the Party with having a profound influence on both his creative development and political consciousness. **Amiri Baraka** is a poet, playwright, novelist, essayist, and political activist who lives in Newark, New Jersey, with his wife. From 2002-2004, he was Poet Laureate of New Jersey. **Kathleen Cleaver**, attorney, author, and senior lecturer at Yale University and Emory Law School, joined the Black Panther Party in 1967. **St. Clair Bourne** is a veteran filmmaker of forty-five film productions, including documentaries for HBO, PBS, NBC, BBC, and National Geographic, in addition to his own independent work. He is currently shooting a four-hour documentary on the rise and fall of the Black Panther Party. **Colette Gaiter** is an associate professor at the University of Delaware. She also writes on African American graphic design from the 1960s and 70s. **Greg Morozumi** is artistic director of the EastSide Arts Alliance in Oakland, California which runs a Third World cultural center in Oakland, CA. **Sonia Sanchez** is a world-renowned poet who has published more than a dozen books; she has been the recipient of many awards for her activist work.

Excerpts from this book are available to accompany your coverage. To arrange, please contact Gina Garza at Workhouse Publicity, (212) 645-8006 or gina@workhousepr.com.

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