

**NEW**  
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**NEW MUSEUM RELEASES AFTER NATURE CATALOGUE**

The New Museum is pleased to release a special catalogue in conjunction with the major summer exhibition “After Nature,” on view from July 17 to Sept 21, 2008. This unique project pays tribute to the work of W.G. Sebald by repurposing existing copies of *After Nature*, Sebald’s 1988 three-part prose poem, from which this show has borrowed its title. The catalogue consists of the original book, enriched with images that have been hand-placed between the pages, and a new foldout dust jacket. The result is a singular hybrid that is partially appropriated and partially recycled material, informed by the artistic tradition of the found object. Conceived as an homage to W.G. Sebald, the catalogue features an essay by Massimiliano Gioni, Director of Special Exhibitions and curator of the exhibition; a foreword by Lisa Phillips, *Toby Devan Lewis Director*; a complete checklist; and twenty-five full-color images by the artists featured in the show.

The places where W.G. Sebald and “After Nature” connect are rich sites of discovery—the plaintive meditations on death, life, history, and the possibilities of art. Sebald’s writing—like much of the work in the show—is an inquiry into loss, absence, and longing: an uneasy questioning of humankind’s place in the natural world. *After Nature* is as poignant as it is devastating, the first work in which Sebald’s career-long themes would begin to take form. Perhaps in the context of this exhibition, Sebald’s text is to be read as a travelogue of the show’s alien terrain; or perhaps the videos, paintings, photographs, and objects that fill the museum are the absent illustrations of Sebald’s book, not quite fact and far from fiction.

While making no concrete reference to Sebald’s work, “After Nature” unfolds as a visual novel, similarly telling a story of abandonment, regression, and rapture, informed by Sebald’s imperative to stand before destruction and take stock of its endless iterations. The catalogue/poem is a map to a strange and broken landscape of what remains after nature reviles or revokes us, or simply after it—as it inevitably must—ends.

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The exhibition and book include work by Allora and Calzadilla, Paweł Althamer, Micol Assaël, Fikret Atay, Roger Ballen, Huma Bhabha, Maurizio Cattelan, William Christenberry, Roberto Cuoghi, Bill Daniel, Berlinde De Bruyckere, Nathalie Djurberg, Reverend Howard Finster, Nancy Graves, Werner Herzog, Robert Kusmirowski, Zoe Leonard, Klara Liden, Erik van Lieshout, Diego Perrone, Thomas Schütte, Dana Schutz, Tino Sehgal, August Strindberg, Eugene Von Bruenchenhein, and Artur Żmijewski

**ABOUT THE NEW MUSEUM**

Founded in 1977, the New Museum is Manhattan's only dedicated contemporary art museum and among the most respected internationally, with a curatorial program known for its global scope and adventurousness. With the inauguration of our new, state-of-the-art building on the Bowery, the New Museum is a leading destination for new art and new ideas.

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