



## PRESS RELEASE

### Art Crazy Nation The Post-Blimey! Art World

By Matthew Collings

Publication Date: October 18, 2001

Launch party and readings by the author at Selfridges Inside Space,  
October 18, 2001, 6-9pm

Accompanied by an exhibition of artist portraits by photographer **Rory Carnegie**  
and an installation by **Mat Collishaw**

**Art Crazy Nation** is a new book by Britain's leading art critic Matthew Collings, former editor of the international art magazine 'Artscribe' and critic/presenter for the BBC. He has recently written and presented two major television series for Channel 4 – the award-winning **This Is Modern Art** and **Hello Culture**. A further series on the art of the old masters is currently in production. His previous book titles including **Blimey!**, *From Bohemia to Britpop, the London Artworld from Francis Bacon to Damien Hirst*, and **It Hurts**, *New York art from Warhol to now*.

In **Art Crazy Nation**, Collings charts the international success of the *Young British Artists* (YBAs) and their incumbents, and analyses the effect of the new Tate Modern on the burgeoning British art scene. The book is sympathetic and informed but not at all afraid to be incredibly rude.

How has the art world changed over the last five years? Is Tate Modern good or a plastic tourist attraction with religious mumbo jumbo sprayed on, like magic fairy dust? Is being a Marxist in today's art world little more than a market choice? Curators: anaemic zombies or twenty-first century Easy Riders - art's answer to Sly and the Family Stone? Is it right that art must be sanctimonious to be good? Why are we like this now and how long will it last?

In **Art Crazy Nation**, **Matthew Collings** doesn't set out to provide black-and-white answers to these questions. Instead he describes what art in Britain has become and how the art world is thinking. He offers a slice of the contemporary art zeitgeist.

Matthew Collings' text is accompanied by a specially-commissioned series of artist and art-world people's portraits, taken by celebrated portrait photographer **Rory Carnegie**, including such art world luminaries as Jake & Dinos Chapman, Matthew Collings, Mat Collishaw, Tracey Emin, Liam Gillick, Jay Jopling, Tim Noble & Sue Webster, Sam Taylor-Wood and Mark Wallinger.

### **Praise for previous titles by Matthew Collings**

#### **Blimey! From Bohemia to Britpop: the London Artworld from Francis Bacon to Damien Hirst**

'So which artist used to paint naked at his easel with pins stuck through his penis? Is it possible to walk out from a warehouse art-show and plunge to your death? Matthew's wired and rushy art history, alternately irritating and insightful, gives late 20th century Britart what it needs – a confusing, loony relevance.'

DAVID BOWIE

'Hilarious and horrible, intelligent and frightening, Blimey! is the book the art world deserves.'

ADRIAN SEARLE, The Guardian

'In its laconic way, this has the moral weight of great criticism'.

DAVID SYLVESTER, The Independent on Sunday

#### **It Hurts: New York art from Warhol to now**

"It Hurts" ships the bemused Brit across the Atlantic. Collings capably hammers together reportage, assessment, and a lot of dish and adeptly breezes away the fog of blather that accumulates around art in an environment nauseous with pseudo-academic jargon and the cult of celebrity."

DOM AMMIRATI, Newsweek

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