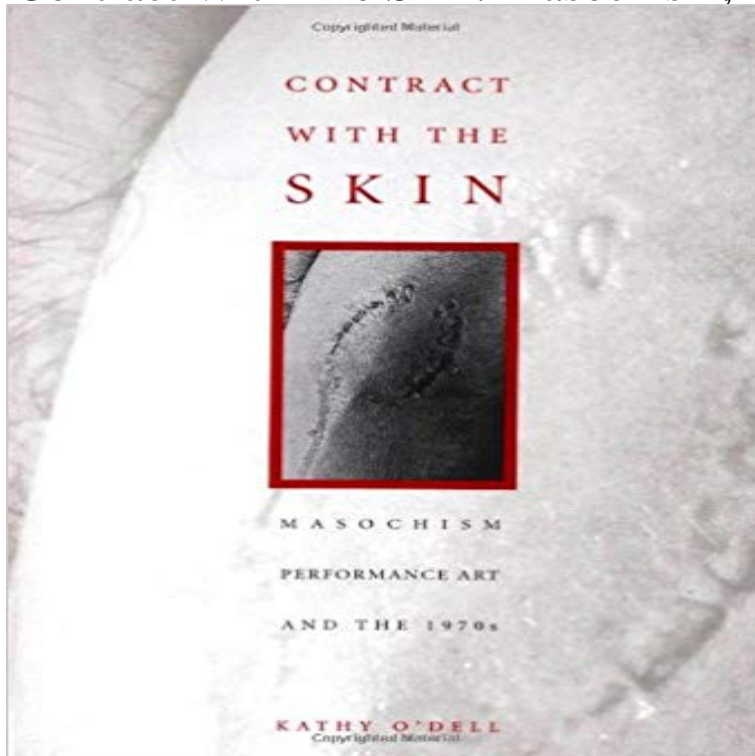


Contract With The Skin: Masochism, Performance Art, and the 1970s



Having yourself shot. Putting out fires with your bare hands and feet. Biting your own body and photographing the marks. Sewing your own mouth shut. These seemingly aberrant acts were committed by performance artists during the 1970s. Why would anyone do these things? What do these kinds of masochistic performances tell us about the social and historical context in which they occurred? Fascinating and accessibly written, *Contract with the Skin* addresses such questions through a reconsideration of these acts in relation to psychoanalytic and legal concepts of masochism. O'Dell argues that the growth of masochistic performance during the 1970s must be seen in the context of society's response to the Vietnam War and contemporaneous changes in theories of contract. She contends that the dynamic that exists between audience and performer during these masochistic acts relates to tensions resulting from ruptures in the social contract. Indeed, as the war in Vietnam waned, so did masochistic performance, only to reemerge in the 1980s in relation to the war on AIDS and the censorious culture wars. Focusing on 1970s performance artists Vito Acconci, Chris Burden, Gina Pane, and collaborators Marina Abramovic/Ulay as well as those with similar sensibilities from the late 1980s onward -- Bob Flanagan, David Wojnarowicz, Simon Leung, Catherine Opie, Ron Athey, Lutz Bacher, and Robby Garfinkel -- O'Dell provides photographic documentation of performances and quotations from interviews with many of the artists. Throughout, O'Dell asks what we can do about the institutionalized forms of masochism for which these performances are metaphors. *Contract with the Skin* is a provocative guide to this little-studied area, and offers new ways of thinking about performance art and artistic production.

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Masochism, Performance Art, and the 1970s. The Performance Artist as Masochistic Woman, Arts Magazine, v.62, Kathy Odell-CV-UMBC format - Current - 29 - UMBC Visual Arts (1998) in Contract With the Skin: Masochism, Performance Art and the 1970s, and this appears appropriate when discussing collaboration in performance. **Contract With the Skin. Masochism. Performance. the 70s. - Scribd** Contract with the Skin is a provocative guide to this little-studied area, and offers new ways of thinking about performance art and artistic production. **Contract with the Skin: Masochism, Performance Art and the 1970s** WHAT is arguably the best-known example of performance art Chris Burdens 1971 performance Shoot might easily be described as masochistic. After all, the **Contract with the Skin** University of Minnesota Press Contract With The Skin has 20 ratings and 3 reviews. Toby said: I was anticipating a text that used psychoanalysis in its reading of masochistic body art