THE ART OF LIFE AND DEATH

Hau Books

Executive Editor Giovanni da Col

Managing Editor Katharine Herman

Editorial Board
Carlos Fausto
Ilana Gershon
Michael Lempert
Stephan Palmié
Jonathan Parry
Joel Robbins
Danilyn Rutherford
Anne-Christine Taylor
Jason Throop



THE MALINOWSKI MONOGRAPHS

In tribute to the foundational, yet productively contentious, nature of the ethnographic imagination in anthropology, this series honors the creator of the term "ethnographic theory" himself. Monographs included in this series represent unique contributions to anthropology and showcase groundbreaking work that contributes to the emergence of new ethnographically-inspired theories or challenge the way the "ethnographic" is conceived today.

THE ART OF LIFE AND DEATH RADICAL AESTHETICS AND ETHNOGRAPHIC PRACTICE

Andrew Irving



© 2017 Hau Books and Andrew Irving

Cover, © 1998 Albert Velasco, *Spectre*, pencil drawing on paper. *Reproduced by permission from the artist*.

Cover and layout design: Sheehan Moore

Typesetting: Prepress Plus (www.prepressplus.in)

ISBN: 978-0-9973675-1-5 LCCN: 2017934090

Hau Books Chicago Distribution Center 11030 S. Langley Chicago, IL 60628 www.haubooks.com

 $\mbox{\sc Hau}$ Books is marketed and distributed by The University of Chicago Press. www.press.uchicago.edu

Printed in the United States of America on acid-free paper.

This book is dedicated with much love to the person who encouraged and taught me to be curious about the world: my mother, Olive Beryl Irving.

Table of Contents

LIST OF FIGURES	xi
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	xiii
BEGINNINGS The limits of the world	1
CHAPTER ONE Thrown out of the world: A city of flesh and stone	33
CHAPTER TWO Detours and puzzles in the land of the living:Toward an imperiled anthropology	69
CHAPTER THREE To live that life	103
снартек four Rethinking anthropology from a pragmatic point of view	133
CHAPTER FIVE A disintegration of the senses	159

CHAPTER SIX The eternal return	185
ENDINGS You only live twice	217
REFERENCES INDEX	225 241

List of Figures

3.6

1.1	John Randel's map of New York City 1811.
1.2	Omega Oil, West 147th Street, Harlem, NYC.
1.3	Radway's Ready Relief, Delancey Street, NYC.
1.4	Frank in front of a fading advertisement.
1.5	Xenon by the Pacific Ocean (2013).
1.6	(Sepia) Dreams and false alarms, by Benjamin Trimmier, 1994.
1.7	The sun goes down on beauty, by Benjamin Trimmier, 1995.
1.8	Benjamin sitting opposite Yoda (2012).
2.1-2.4	Leaving Albert's apartment for the clinic.
2.5-2.8	Journey to the clinic.
2.9-2.12	Approaching the clinic.
2.13-2.16	Returning from the clinic.
2.17-2.20	Sushi bar.
2.21-2.24	Second Avenue and St. Mark's Place.
2.25-2.28	Walking back to Albert's apartment along Second Avenue.
3.1	Wheatfield with crows, by Vincent van Gogh, 1890.
3.2	Colours on cardboard, by Juan Arellano, circa 1997.
3.3	Tricolor man, by Juan Arellano, circa 1997.
3.4	Untitled charcoal drawing by Juan Arellano, circa 1999.
3.5	Three days of blood, by Rebecca Guberman-Bloom, 1996.

Blood work (detail), by Rebecca Guberman-Bloom, 1997.

3.7	Skin (detail), by Rebecca Guberman-Bloom, 1997.
3.8	Aposentos (Blanket 2), by Ricardo Morin, 2000.
3.9	Self-portrait in a chair, by Ricardo Morin, 1998.
3.10-3.12	Silence 6, Silence 8, Silence 9, by Ricardo Morin, 2012.
3.13	Wall of Harriet Nabesse's grandfather's house.
3.14	Untitled, by Will F. Willis, 1994.
4.1	Lucky Cheng's restaurant (formerly the Club Baths).
4.2	John Vasquez and Jon Greenberg's old apartment building.
4.3	First Avenue: The route the body was carried.
4.4	Tompkins Square Park.
4.5	Redden's "Home for Funerals."
4.6	Jon Greenberg's dead body blocking traffic and being carried along First Avenue.
4.7	Neil tries to recreate his brother's facial expression in the moments before his death.
5.1	Empire chair in the gloaming, by John Dugdale, 1994.
5.2	The death of Marat, by Jacques-Louis David, 1793.
5.3	My spirit tried to leave me, by John Dugdale, 1994.
5.4	Screenshot from Blue, by Derek Jarman, 1993.
5.5	Study after Velazquez's Portrait of Pope Innocent X, by Francis Bacon, 1953.
6.1	Fresh catch, by William Cullum, 2012.
6.2-6.3	Comparison with packet.
6.4	Red, by William Cullum, 1995.
6.5	Green, by William Cullum, 1995.
6.6	Mug shot of William Cullum.
6.7	US Attorney announcement.
6.8	Crystal meth warning poster.
6.9	William Cullum's most recent painting as of the time of writing:
	Requiem for Lin Jun, 2015.