

FILE MEGAZINE



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COMPLETE REPRINT

Among artists' magazines and periodicals, "FILE Magazine" occupies a very unique position: between 1972 and 1989, the celebrated Canadian artists' collaborative General Idea (active 1969–1994) published 26 issues of this sophisticated, though self-published, magazine, which had a distribution extending far beyond its Toronto underground origins. Its name and logo adapted those of the famous "LIFE"—whose heyday was in the 1950s and early 1960s—demonstrating an already very Pop strategy of appropriation. As it was retrospectively put by AA Bronson, one of the member of the collective, the magazine's purpose has been the search of "an alternative to the Alternative Press," a subversive concept of infiltration within mainstream media and culture. Thus the early issues' manifestos, lists of addresses, and letters from friends, were rapidly replaced by General Idea's scripts and projects as well as cultural issues (as in the famous "Glamour" or "Punk" issues), while never losing a cutting-edge attention to emerging practices on the art scene and experimental layouts.

The present six-volume reprint features all the issues, reproduced page by page, in a slightly modified format. It provides the rare opportunity for an art, design, and culture-orientated audience to own these long out-of-print and much sought-after magazines in a complete box-set edition.

This publication is part of the Ringier Collection Artists' Series, edited by Beatrix Ruf.