MAI-THU PERRET

GRAMMAR & GLAMOUR

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CATEGORIES: Books, Monographs & Artists' Books

SPECIFICATIONS:
English
Publication: November 2026
ISBN: 978-3-03764-634-2
Hardcover, 240 x 260 mm
Pages: 320
Pictures B&W: / Color: 250
Price: CHF 45, EUR 45, GBP 40, USD 50

COMPREHENSIVE MONOGRAPH

For the last 25 years, French-Swiss visual artist Mai-Thu Perret (b. 1976, lives in Geneva) has built a remarkable and acclaimed body of work that merges a talent for story-telling and cross-referencing, an expertise in craft and form-making, and a deep understanding of how visual art can be a powerful discourse through which to raise and solve contemporary issues, in particular feminism and the rewriting of modernism. Her sculptures, paintings, ceramic works, textile works, performances, and text pieces exist at the intersection of contemporary culture, art historical critique, and visceral materiality. She explores—and generates—feminist narratives and counter-narratives that cast the role of the art object in a new light, introducing utilitarian, symbolic, and even mystical possibilities in contexts that are often limited to formalist readings. Perret's work shows how bodies are always implicit subjects of artistic discourse, and how impulses for utopian transcendence (aesthetic, political, or otherwise) can always be traced back to the physicality of desire. "I like using my work as a speculative space in which I can imagine alternative histories to come, stories that are still to be told," the artist states.

With new essays by Geneva University Art History Professor Giovanna Zapperi on feminism and utopia in Perret's work, French craft expert and curator Anne Dressen on her manifold ceramic practice, as well as a poetic contribution by American writer Ariana Reines and an extensive conversation with French art critic and curator Ida Soulard, this

comprehensive monograph spans the artist's practice over the last ten years. Designed by Gavillet & Cie, it is organized as a succession of immersive portfolios dedicated to specific major solo exhibitions, her performative practice, and key bodies of work, in order to encompass the entire range of Perret's interests and visual languages.

Recent solo institutional exhibitions by Mai-Thu Perret include *Othermothers*, Centre Culturel Suisse, Paris, and *Re-imaginings*, MASI, Lugano (both 2026); *Real Estate*, Istituto Svizzero, Rome, and *Sophie Taeuber-Arp/Mai-Thu Perret*, Cabaret Voltaire, Zurich (both 2022); *Les Étangs*, Le Portique, Le Havre (2020); MAMCO, Geneva (2019); *Grammar and Glamour*, Badischer Kunstverein, Karlsruhe, and *The Blazing World*, Spike Island, Bristol (both 2019); and *Sightings*, Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas (2016).