

JIM SHAW

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DOCUMENTATION OF THE O-IST RELIGION CREATED BY SHAW

Since first exhibiting his "Thrift Store Paintings" more than a decade ago, American artist Jim Shaw has routinely tapped the abundant resources of Sunday painters in order to undermine the prerogatives of taste and connoisseurship. Continuing his investigation into forgotten or overlooked American culture, Shaw has now invented his own religion, O-ism, and dated its origin to the mid-19th century.

This publication is entirely dedicated to this new body of work, developed since 2001 in installations, paintings, videos, and drawings. An abundant iconography and descriptions of the characters are included to provide a key to the hermeneutics created by the artist.

An essay by Doug Harvey and an interview with the artist conducted by the editors, bring light to the metaphorical aspects of the narrative developed by Shaw. O-ism provides a new reading into contemporary American politics and the everyday intrusion of religiously polarized conceits.

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