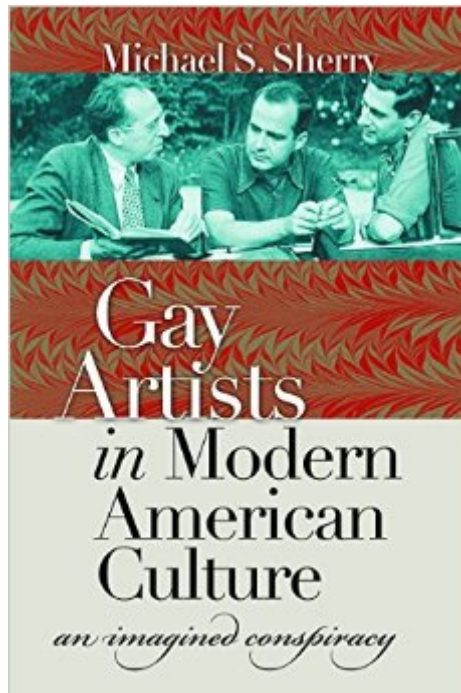


The book was found

Gay Artists In Modern American Culture: An Imagined Conspiracy (Caravan Book)



Synopsis

Today it is widely recognized that gay men played a prominent role in defining the culture of mid-twentieth-century America, with such icons as Tennessee Williams, Edward Albee, Aaron Copland, Samuel Barber, Montgomery Clift, and Rock Hudson defining much of what seemed distinctly "American" on the stage and screen. Even though few gay artists were "out," their sexuality caused significant anxiety during a time of rampant antihomosexual attitudes. Michael Sherry offers a sophisticated analysis of the tension between the nation's simultaneous dependence on and fear of the cultural influence of gay artists. Sherry places conspiracy theories about the "homintern" (homosexual international) taking control and debasing American culture within the paranoia of the time that included anticommunism, anti-Semitism, and racism. Gay artists, he argues, helped shape a lyrical, often nationalist version of American modernism that served the nation's ambitions to create a cultural empire and win the Cold War. Their success made them valuable to the country's cultural empire but also exposed them to rising antigay sentiment voiced even at the highest levels of power (for example, by President Richard Nixon). Only late in the twentieth century, Sherry concludes, did suspicion slowly give way to an uneasy accommodation of gay artists' place in American life.

Book Information

Series: Caravan Book

Hardcover: 304 pages

Publisher: The University of North Carolina Press; First Edition edition (September 10, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0807831212

ISBN-13: 978-0807831212

Product Dimensions: 9.5 x 6.3 x 1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,581,618 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #833 in [Books > Gay & Lesbian > History](#) #2918 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific](#)

[Demographics > Gay & Lesbian](#) #3685 in [Books > Gay & Lesbian > Nonfiction](#)

Customer Reviews

At first I was reading this book rather grudgingly due to what I perceived as its flaw, the almost total absence of West Coast-based artists among his case studies. In fact I still don't know why that

would be, the book is about "Modern American Culture" not "Modern Upper East Side Culture," nevertheless there it is, and what's here is almost bewilderingly good in all the best ways. It takes up a topic you thought you knew all about, and it brings to light the documents themselves that force you to see the whole "conspiracy" in a different light. AN IMAGINED CONSPIRACY shows us the intricate web of enemies any gay artist had to deal with in the 1940s and the 1950s, and perhaps in response the art of the men in question became more and more patriotic and American. Thornton Wilder's "Our Town" was praised for its universal qualities. Rock Hudson became the most manly and appealing of all movie stars, while Aaron Copland saw his composition "Fanfare for the Common Man" become a second national anthem. The most riveting and heterosexually erotic musical, "West Side Story" was composed by an entire troupe of gay artists including Arthur Laurents, Leonard Bernstein, and Stephen Sondheim. Sherry shows us how the State Department and other proponents of American imperialism cynically pushed forward these cultural products as weapons in the Cold War with Russia and the hated Red Menace of communism, and until such time as these tactics ceased to matter, the artist were protected to a certain extent from public exposure.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Gay Artists in Modern American Culture: An Imagined Conspiracy (Caravan Book) GAY: 13 STORIES OF MAN ON MAN (GAY MM ROMANCE, GAY BDSM, FIRST TIME, MM/MMM MULTIPLE PARTNER, FORBIDDEN TALES, STEAMY TABOO STORIES, ALPHA MALES TOO BIG TO FIT IN, GAY MENAGE THREESOME STORIES) Textiles Re:imagined: Delve into the minds of 50 of the world's most innovative and inspiring textile and fiber artists (Formerly 3D Mixed Media Textile Art) Cuba in the American Imagination: Metaphor and the Imperial Ethos (Caravan Book) Dress a Bridal Party Paper Dolls: 4 dolls and 170 outfits by 48 artists of the Original Paper Doll Artists Guild The Rights of Authors, Artists, and other Creative People, Second Edition: A Basic Guide to the Legal Rights of Authors and Artists (ACLU Handbook) GAY: EROTICA: Straight to GAY - 11 Book MegaBundle of First Time Gay Sex Stories: Bisexual Curious Forced MM Romance Sex LGBT Short Story New Adult Contemporary Cowboy Cheating Taboo Forbidden The Joy of Gay Sex: An Intimate Guide for Gay Men to the Pleasures of a Gay Lifestyle Straight Man Seduced by the Gay Priest (Taken by the Gay Priest 1)(MM, MMM, Menage, Straight-to-Gay, First Time Erotica) Spanking the Naughty Stud (Taken by the Gay Priest 2)(MM, MMM, Menage, Straight-to-Gay, First Time Gay Erotica) Freaky Lies (A Mystic Caravan Mystery Book 2) Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the Making of the Gay Male World, 1890-1940 Rome Measured and Imagined: Early Modern Maps of the Eternal City The Cambridge Companion to Modern Latin

American Culture (Cambridge Companions to Culture) Gay: STRETCH : 3 Book Gay Bundle
(Contemporary Stepbrother Paranormal Menage Taboo MM Erotica) (Alpha Male Fiction) Bad Debt
Book 1: Reluctant Gay BDSM (Bad Debt - Reluctant Gay BDSM) CRUISING THE GAY NUDE
BEACH - Gay Travel Tales: Australia - Book 3 I Got You | A Gay Romance: A Boyfriend for Rent
Book | Gay For You The Imagined Island: History, Identity, and Utopia in Hispaniola (Latin America
in Translation/en Traducció n/em TraduÃ§Ã£o) Revolver: How the Beatles Re-Imagined Rock 'n'
Roll

[Dmca](#)