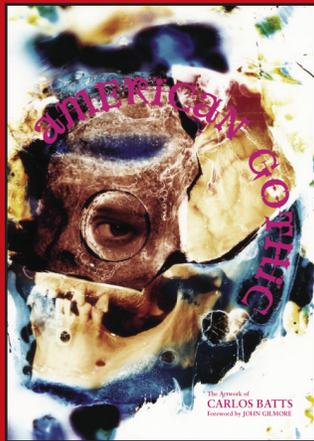




SCAPEGOAT
PUBLISHING



Title: American Gothic

Author: Carlos Batts

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COMPILATION CD

TRACK LISTING

1. MASTODON

Thank You for This

2. PG.99

Skinpack

3. SWARM OF THE LOTUS

Ichabod

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ANNOUNCING THE PUBLICATION OF THE BOOK *AMERICAN GOTHIC* BY CARLOS BATT'S

Madness and genius collide in *American Gothic*, photographer-filmmaker-artist Carlos Batts' answer to Grant Wood's famous 1930 portrait of the same name: that granite-faced, pitchfork-totin' embodiment of what this country was three-quarters of a century ago. America in 2005 is a very different matter.

Fuse Romare Bearden with Man Ray, and you might come close to Batts' vivisection of America's diseased soul. In 128 pages of experimental photography and mixed-media, Batts tortures the negative itself to bring forth frenzied, expressionistic hybrids of horror and beauty. Published in softback and limited edition slipcase editions by Baltimore's Scapegoat Publishing, *American Gothic* is Batts' third book and the one most reflective of the artist himself. To be certain, Batts' previous efforts for the German publisher Edition Reuss, *Wild Skin* and *Crazy Sexy Hollywood*, were distinguished by a unique, readily-identifiable style, one that's proved immensely popular here and overseas. But in both books there is always the sense that the artist is giving us exactly what we as voyeurs want. *American Gothic*, on the other hand, is Batts' pure, unadulterated artistic vision, one not tweaked for the mass-market or meant to satisfy bourgeois tastes.

Batts' work is well-known in the worlds of rock, fetish and fashion and admired by discerning, risk-taking gallerist, such as Merry Karnowsky of Los Angeles' Merry Karnowsky Gallery. However, with *American Gothic*, Batts is bursting onto the art scene with a tour de force reminiscent of when Robert Mapplethorpe and Andres Serrano first shook the world with their controversial imagery. Following in the photographic footsteps of these innovators, Batts has created an oeuvre impossible to ignore, one that burrows into your cranium and devours your preconceptions of what art and photography are all about. Like seeing a David Lynch film for the first time or a painting by Egon Schiele, the tectonic plates of the possible will shift as you leaf through this book. Afterwards, nothing will be the same. Here is the yardstick by which to measure art. Here is the birth of the new.

The book also comes with a nine track CD from bands that Carlos has done artwork for, featuring *Mastodon*, *Pg. 99*, *Swarm of the Lotus*, *Pig Destroyer* and more. Many tracks never released on CD!

With an introduction from **John Gilmore** (author of books on Charles Manson, Black Dahlia, James Dean, and multiple novels), this book is a departure from the art pornography that has been published before. A signed limited slipcased version of the book will be available in an edition of 200.

**AVAILABLE IN JUNE 2005 FROM SCAPEGOAT PUBLISHING
OR TO THE BOOK TRADE THROUGH LAST GASP AND THE
MUSIC TRADE THROUGH CARGO DISTRIBUTION.**

For DVD promos of the film *AMERICAN GOTHIC* by Carlos Batts, please contact :
CULT EPICS | cultepics@sbglobal.net | www.cultepics.com | Tel. 323-9132513

American Gothic was submitted to the 1930 annual exhibition at the Art Institute of Chicago, where it won a bronze medal and a \$300 prize. But that's not all. The Art Institute acquired the piece for its collection. From there, a picture of the prize-winning painting ran in the Chicago Evening Post, then in newspapers across the U.S., gaining fame and popularity with each printing. Eighty-five years later, American Gothic still calls the Art Institute home. 2. American Gothic made Wood famous.