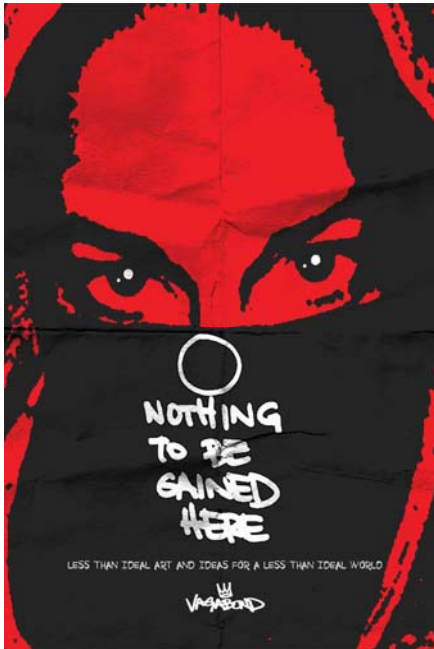


Nothing to Be Gained Here: Less Than Ideal Art and Ideas for a Less Than Ideal World by Vagabond



Vagabond



PHOTO CREDIT: Sam Lahoz

Sept. 2017 | 215 pp. | 8.5" x 11"
Hardcover
ISBN: 978-1-940939-32-2
LCCN: 2014930507
EBOOK | ISBN: 978-1-940939-65-0

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NOTHING TO BE GAINED HERE, LESS THAN IDEAL ART AND IDEAS FOR A LESS THAN IDEAL WORLD introduces readers to the New York-based iconic filmmaker, photographer, artist, poet, writer, anarchist and idealist, Vagabond, whose satirical and subversive artwork and sociopolitical commentary has been featured for years on his blog, "Nothing To Be Gained Here" (www.nothingtobegainedhere.wordpress.com). Consider NOTHING TO BE GAINED HERE as a revolt against the mainstream as a wholesale interrogation of modern society, politics, and consumer culture that challenges the role of the artist. Most of the work for NOTHING TO BE GAINED HERE is taken from the blog, while other pieces have never before been published.

This 8-1/2 x 11, 215 page, hardbound edition was definitely designed to sit flat on a coffee table, but it's much more than just a coffee table book. It is a stunning artifact that begets staring, an exercise in visual storytelling reflected through the 72 works consisting of the in-your-face poetry, scripts, manifestos and immensely knowledgeable essays, surrounded by well-over 100 thought-provoking paintings, graphic illustrations, and stunning photographs. While not shying away from documenting New York City's well-known rough edges (particularly during the crisis years of the 1970s), or self-exploration and inner-transformations about the socio-political issues of the day, Vagabond also explores art-making with a spirited form of inquiry into its creation, purpose and its reception. Blurring art and life in his attempt to achieve self-actualization, he also explores his own life as an artist and a human being. A master at opening his own readers' eyes — not so much instructing, but expanding one's awareness — makes his work a pleasure to read.

NOTHING TO BE GAINED HERE was created to ignite, provoke and inspire. And contrary to the title's cryptic warning, if you believe there's something outside the binary and within the dialectic, then there's something to be gained here for you. This is Vagabond's first published collection.

[REVIEWS TO COME]

About the Author

VAGABOND is a filmmaker and multidisciplinary artist born in Brooklyn to Puerto Rican and Jamaican parents. A graduate of Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & the Arts, he attended The School of Visual Arts but dropped out after his first year to work on independent black films such as Spike Lee's *Do The Right Thing* (1989). Vagabond has written, produced and directed the documentary *Ricanstructing Vieques* (2013), and the award-winning feature film, *Machetero* (2008). He is the graphic artist of *Last of the Po'Ricans y Otros Afro-artifacts* (2013), and a contributor to *Black Lives Have Always Mattered* (2017).

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