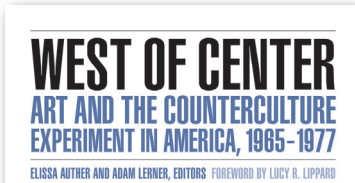


# West of Center

*Art and the Counterculture Experiment in America, 1965–1977*

Elissa Auther and Adam Lerner, editors

Foreword by Lucy R. Lippard



In the heady and hallucinogenic days of the 1960s and '70s, a diverse range of artists and creative individuals broke the barriers between art and lifestyle. Often created through radically collaborative artistic practices, such works as Paolo Soleri's earth homes, the hand-built architecture of the Drop City and Libre communes, Yolanda López's political posters, the multisensory movement workshops of Anna and Lawrence Halprin, and the immersive light shows and video-based work by the Ant Farm and Optic Nerve collectives were intended to generate new life patterns that pointed toward social and political emancipation.

Elissa Auther and Adam Lerner bring together a prominent group of scholars to elaborate the historical and artistic significance of these counterculture projects within the broader narrative of post-war American art. Contributors reveal the disciplinary, geographic, and theoretical biases and assumptions that have led to the dismissal of countercultural practices in the history of art and visual culture, and they detail how this form of cultural and political activity found its place in the West.

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