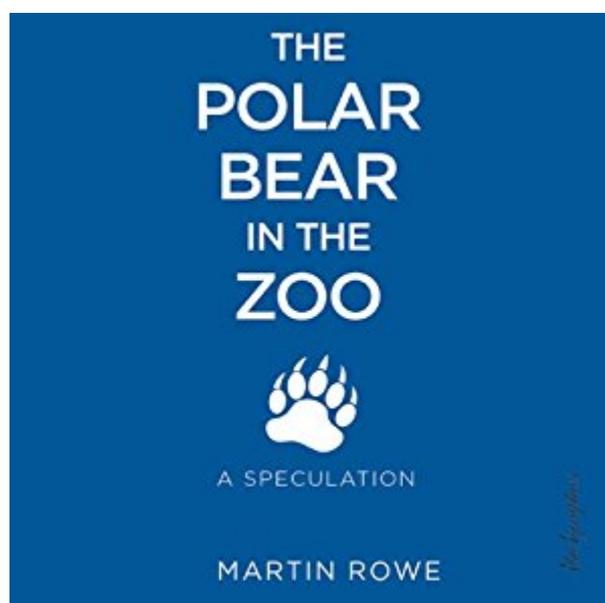


The book was found

The Polar Bear In The Zoo



Synopsis

In *The Polar Bear in the Zoo*, Martin Rowe studies a photograph by the Canadian photojournalist Jo-Anne McArthur in the context of her series "We Animals" and the portraits of several other photographers of captive animals. Rowe looks at how we come to the window to stare at the creatures, and the ways we frame our ideas about them within the exposure and capture provided by the photograph and the zoo. As part of his analysis, Rowe relates his own frames as an animal activist, his blind spots and effacements, and how the various tropes that are evoked in McArthur's photograph reflect our human tendency to honor the act of seeing—including our beliefs in the epiphanic—above our other senses, and our willingness to confront what we see or turn away.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Every social or moral cause needs powerful works to grow into a political movement. To proceed from widely shared complaints and concerns to the organized agitation it takes to bring about change, a mass of people must persist in vision, goals, and activism. They need works—of philosophers, writers, filmmakers, musicians—to feed on and keep moving in the direction of change. For the animal rights movement, the works of philosophers—Peter Singer, Carol Adams, Tom Regan, et al—jump-started a centuries-old concern. Then came the works of investigator/writers that documented the conditions for animals in laboratories, factory farms and other sites of exploitation. Then followed the works of activists—Ronnie Lee, Jane Goodall, Paul Watson, Ingrid Newkirk, Henry Spira, et al—that showed how to raise hell and stir public awareness

about those conditions. Lately, it seems, the "works" have amounted to a proliferation of vegan cookbooks. That's just fine for the already aware and committed, but something more is needed if a movement is to MOVE more people to awareness and commitment. Novels. Plays. Poetry. Movies. Orchestral works. Television series. And, god, yes: Video games. Apps. Websites. Social media sites. Martin Rowe's book, *The Polar Bear in the Zoo*, will feed those of us who have concern for animals and the planet and uneasiness about our tradition of human supremacy. We have plenty of works on the former--concern, but too few works on the latter--tradition. We need more works that probe our history, our psyche, our traditions for this is the stuff that needs an awful lot of shaking up. We have many works making the case for animal rights, plenty of campaigns against this abuse and for that new law.

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