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New Book

Proud to be Flesh: A Mute Magazine Anthology of Cultural Politics after the Net

Edited by Josephine Berry Slater and Pauline van Mourik Broekman
with Michael Corris, Anthony Iles, Benedict Seymour
and Simon Worthington

<http://metamute.org/ptbf>

In late 1994, back in the days of dial-up modems and Netscape Navigator 1.0, *Mute* magazine announced its timely arrival. Dedicated to an analysis of culture and politics 'after the net', *Mute* has consistently challenged the grandiose claims of the communications revolution, debunking its utopian rhetoric and offering more critical perspectives.

Fifteen years on, Mute Publishing and Autonomedia are delighted to announce the publication of *Proud to be Flesh: A Mute Magazine Anthology of Cultural Politics after the Net*. The anthology selects representative articles from the magazine's hugely diverse content to reprise some of its recurring themes. This expansive collection charts the perilous journey from Web 1.0 to 2.0, contesting the democratisation this transition implied and laying bare our incorporeal expectations; it exposes the ways in which the logic of technology intersects with that of art and music and, in turn and inevitably, with the logic of business; it heralds the rise of neoliberalism and condemns the human cost; it amplifies the murmurs of dissent and revels in the first signs of collapse. The result situates key – but often little understood – concepts associated with the digital (e.g. the knowledge commons, immaterial labour and open source) in their proper context, producing an impressive overview of contemporary, networked culture in its broadest sense.

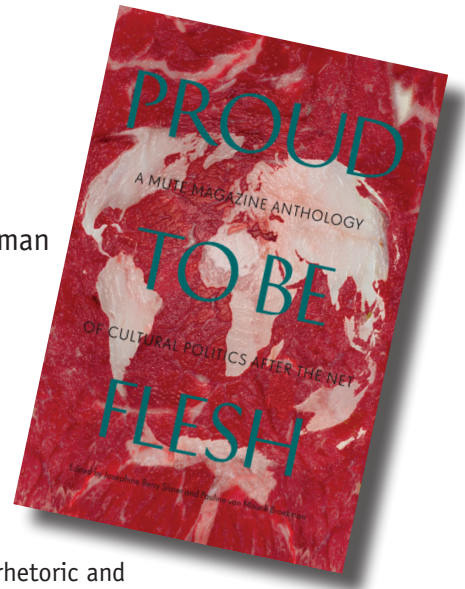
Proud to be Flesh features a bold mix of essays, interviews, satirical fiction, email polemics and reportage from an array of international contributors working in art, philosophy, technology, politics, cultural theory, radical geography and more. Accessible introductions, a chronological arrangement of chapters and three full-colour image sections grant special insight into the evolution of key themes over time.

In its refusal of specialisation, *Proud to be Flesh* is unique in its field. It offers a compelling view onto the messy but exciting moment that was the turn of the millennium as well as being an incomparable sourcebook for those seeking to push forward analysis of the global crisis that has since ensued.

There are precious few arenas left in which contemporary art and culture are examined from a critical perspective that is willing to challenge both the clichés of academic art theory and the techno-topian disengagement of contemporary new media discourse. *Proud to be Flesh* provides an invaluable guide to the past fifteen years in the evolution of art; a period during which the boundaries between art, culture and technology have been eroded and re-consolidated in ways that are both troubling and promising. *Mute's* writers remind us that there are always real bodies, and consequences, behind the gleaming abstraction of 'new' media. They have managed an almost impossible task: to remain both substantively critical and accessible to a wide readership.

-Grant H. Kester

Chair of Visual Arts at University of California, San Diego, and author of
Conversation Pieces: Community and Communication in Modern Art (2004)



Contributors and interviewees:

Saul Albert / Irina Aristarkhova / The Artist Placement Group (APG) / Brian Ashton / Richard Barbrook / John Barker / Will Barnes / Caroline Bassett / Anustup Basu / Amita Baviskar / Franco Berardi (Bifo) / Josephine Berry Slater / Josephine Bosma / Marc Bousquet / James Boyle / The Bureau of Inverse Technology (BIT) / Ted Byfield / Andy Cameron / Vuk Ćosić / Gregor Claude / Eileen Condon / Michael Corris / Florian Cramer / Critical Art Ensemble (CAE) / Mark Crinson / Chris Darke / Anthony Davies / Mark Dery / Anna Dezeuze / Ricardo Dominguez / Economic Observatory at the University of Openess / María Fernández / Simon Ford / Matthew Fuller / Coco Fusco / David Garcia / Andrew Goffey / Paul Helliwell / Brian Holmes / Hydrarchist / Matthew Hyland / Anthony Iles / Kevin Kelly / Jamie King / Dmytri Kleiner / Kolinko / Arthur Kroker / Hari Kunzru / Peter Linebaugh / The London Particular / Geert Lovink / Suhail Malik / Melancholic Troglodytes / Flint Michigan / Jeff Mills / Angela Mitropoulos / Ewan Morrison / Neil Mulholland / David Panos / Luciana Parisi / Celia Pearce / Richard Pithouse / Simon Pope / Eddie Prevost / Louis Rossetto / Andreas Rüthi / Tim Savage / Pit Schultz / Benedict Seymour / Howard Slater / Keston Sutherland / Horacio Tarcus / Tiziana Terranova / Palle Torsson / Ben Watson / Stephen Willats / Steve Wright / Brian Wyrick / Soenke Zehle

Notes to Editors

Mute Publishing

Mute was founded in 1994 by artists Simon Worthington and Pauline van Mourik Broekman, who continue to contribute to the magazine as members of the editorial board, together with present *Mute* editor, Josephine Berry Slater, and Damian Abbott, Matthew Hyland, Anthony Iles, Hari Kunzru, Demetra Kotouza, Benedict Seymour and Stefan Szczelkun. Earlier members of the board were Tom McCarthy, James Flint, Daniel Jackson, Jamie King, Suhail Malik, Paul Miller, Tina Spear and Melancholic Troglodytes.

Proud to be Flesh is co-edited by Josephine Berry Slater and van Mourik Broekman with Anthony Iles, Benedict Seymour, Simon Worthington and editorial associate for this project, art historian Michael Corris. *Proud to be Flesh* draws upon *Mute* magazine content generated between 1994 and 2007.

Mute has, throughout its history, experimented with format and publishing models. This story is documented in a companion volume, available from Mute Publishing and Eight books, entitled *Mute Magazine Graphic Design* (2008).

Press and Marketing

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Cover artwork download <http://metamute.org/ptbf-press>

Editorial

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Book information

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Proud to be Flesh: A Mute Magazine Anthology of Cultural Politics after the Net can be purchased at all fine bookshops and online at <http://metamute.org/ptbf>



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