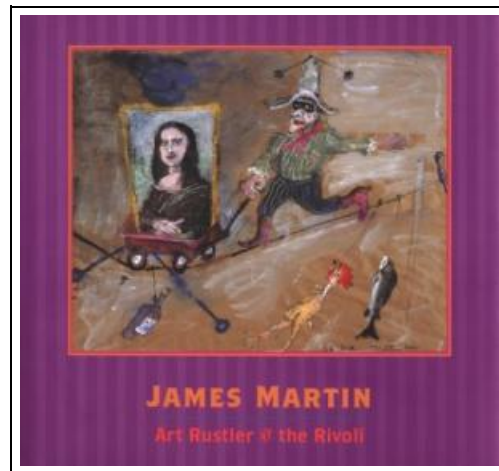


## James Martin: Art Rustler at the Rivoli (Hardback)



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**(Rowland Bauch)**

## JAMES MARTIN: ART RUSTLER AT THE RIVOLI (HARDBACK)



University of Washington Press, United States, 2001. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. James Martin started his career the same way a lot of aspiring painters do-by imitating other artists. During the 1950s and 60s, he nabbed imagery and mannerisms from Mark Tobey, Morris Graves, van Gogh, Picasso, Chagall, and Calder. But the real source of Martin s mature style isn t buried in the mysticism of the Northwest School or the avant garde trends of European Modernism: it traces back to his days at Ballard High School during the 1940s. He and a buddy used to cut class and head downtown to the Rivoli Theater on Seattle s First Avenue to watch the burlesque.The surrealism of those shows percolated into Martin s psyche and his paintings-once he started to trust his own view of things-began to sprout the ambiguities of burlesque and the black humor of slapstick. Now when Martin paints a Northwest scene, it s likely to be peopled with freaks and floozies. He stays up nights listening to the radical opinions on Art Bell s radio talk show and he considers the Jerry Springer show a new form of vaudeville. Martin transforms the daily input of the media into the wild stream-of-consciousness of his paintings-for him both a compulsive kind of storytelling and a way of escape. Like his heroes in the Northwest School, Martin still considers art-making a sacred endeavor-but he figures there s no reason you can t get a good laugh out of it, too.In unearthing the story of this under-recognized painter, art critic Sheila Farr presents a fast-paced account of the strange turns of Martin s career, as well as a fresh look at our standards for evaluating art. Martin s swashbuckling approach to imagery, she discovers, was way ahead...



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