

“Imagine being outside time. That the past and future are revolving around you, and you cannot place yourself properly. That your body, your receptacle, has been numbed free of history. Because I feel this way, I can see clearly when and where the evil started ...”

Richard Zimler, The Last Kabbalist of Lisbon





rob kovitz

ICE FISHING IN GIMLI

a novel

treyf books

keep refrigerated

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“Book—Always too long, whatever the subject.”

Gustave Flaubert, The Dictionary of Received Ideas

Ten years in the making, *Ice Fishing in Gimli* is an 8-volume image/text montage bookwork by Winnipeg artist/writer Rob Kovitz. Set in and around a strange small town and a large frozen lake in the uncharted center of Canada, it's an epic postmodern citation saga of desire, ambition, weather and landscape; of drownings, freezings, murder and cannibalism; of alien architectures, bizarre conveyances, inscrutable soothsayers and esoteric ice-fishing techniques; of the search for enlightenment, the poignancy of fish-flies and the indeterminacy of maps; of prairie writer and double-agent Frederick Philip Grove, Gimli-born Arctic explorer Vilhjalmur Stephanson and numerous other quixotic characters both real and imagined; of boredom, failure, madness, nothingness, unrequited love, best-laid plans, the Wandering Jew, the House of Squid and mysterious things that may or may not be hidden beneath flat, frozen surfaces, to name a few things.

...

“Ice Fishing in Gimli is a unique hybrid fabrication ...”

Jeanne Randolph, Fuse Magazine

“Ice Fishing in Gimli is to Manitoba what Walter Benjamin's Arcades Project is to 19th century Paris. Kovitz, like Benjamin, uses volumes of found images and text to create a complex, labyrinthian narrative ...”

Sigrid Dahle, The Gothic Unconscious

“When the novel started out in the 18th century, it was called novel because it mixed up stuff. A whole lot of it was literal reportage about real cities and real streets ... and imaginary people who were very often identifiable with real ones. And the novel was novel because it didn't fit any generic shape. That's why it was called a novel.”

Alexandra Gill, A Stranger in Seattle: Interview with Jonathan Raban

“The ice-grey volumes of Rob Kovitz's epic accumulation of text and illustration, his mute yet clamouring, self-proclaiming 'novel', Ice Fishing in Gimli, are stacked on a table twenty feet from my keyboard. They look like a low-rise, concrete-block building from five hundred yards away. I keep them at a distance because they are dangerous.

“It's a sweet danger, but a danger still. If the books are near to me, I will take them up and read around in them. At which time, it will become almost impossible to disengage myself from this white tar-baby of a book ... Ice Fishing in Gimli is a white (w)hole.”

Gary Michael Dault, Bibliophilic Rapture In The Cold, Or, Twilight's Last Gleaning

Evocative, wry, enigmatic, disquieting—a densely built dream association in the guise of the meticulously documented and verifiable—this is a book unlike any you've ever read before, with lots of pictures for when you get bored. So cast your hook and hold your breath—you never know what will get dragged up in *Ice Fishing in Gimli*.

“Is this a new form of discourse in step with its multivalent, chaotic times, or just an excuse for intellectual laziness? Only the author knows for sure.”

Marco Polo, Canadian Architect

“The Great Canadian Novel you've been waiting for. Don't argue—just read it.”

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ICE FISHING IN GIMLI

by Rob Kovitz

8 volumes + slipcase

paperback, 6" x 8" x 4770 pages

ISBN 978-0-9812869-0-7

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