



VERNON PRESS

www.vernonpress.com

FLYPR12

**12% DISCOUNT ONLINE**  
USE CODE AT CHECKOUT

\$ 116

€ 107

£ 89

Dawn Woolley, Paula Chambers (Eds.)

# Going Feral

*Speculative Approaches to Animism in the Arts*

CURATING AND INTERPRETING CULTURE

*This book responds to the unimagined consequences of imperial, colonial and industrial infrastructures through the boundary art practices of going feral. Grounded in animism and attentive to its cultural and political complexities, it speculates on how to untame and disrupt the European project of expansion. An invaluable multidirectional guide for readers interested in more-than-human entanglements and the potential futures they materialise.*

**Dr. Basia Sliwinska**

Researcher

Art History Institute (IHA), Universidade Nova de Lisboa,  
Portugal

## About the editors

**Paula Chambers** is an artist, academic and arts educator. She studied with Professor Griselda Pollock at the University of Leeds on the MA Feminist Art History, Theory, Criticism and Practice in the Visual Arts (MAFEM, 1993) and completed her PhD by practice at Middlesex University in 2020. Her research explores the agentic potential of feral objects in their role as sculpture. Specifically, how the disruption of the objects and materials of feminine material culture as feminist art practice, as they perform as sculpture, troubles the historical, social and culture understanding of women's relationship to domesticity.

**Dawn Woolley** is an artist and research fellow at Leeds Arts University. She completed an MA in Photography (2008) and a PhD by project in Fine Art (2017) at the Royal College of Art. Woolley's research examines contemporary consumerism and the commodified construction of gendered bodies, paying particular attention to the new mechanisms of interaction afforded by social networking sites. Recent publications include: '#Rebel Selves: queer selfies as practices of care', 'Photographies, 2025 and Consuming the Body: Capitalism, Social Media and Commodification,' London: Bloomsbury 2025.

## Summary

This edited volume presents critical analyses of animism in the arts with a focus on the boundary practices of going feral. Reconsidering the question posed by Cecilia Alemani, Venice Biennale 2022 curator, authors explore 'what would life look like without us?', in a world activated by things and a post-humanist animism. These speculative discussions are developed in this volume, in which we consider how the process and practices of going feral might materialise through and across creative investigations.

Going feral is a provocative call to untame, queer and radicalize feminist thought and practice, producing more-than-human, multispecies entanglements, and processes of dynamic resistance. The chapters critically analyse processes of going feral in artworks and art practices ranging from fine art, art history and performance to architecture, video games and poetry. They consider how going feral allows audiences to form meaningful relationships with spoiled landscapes, develop human and non-human communities, and to reimagine the domestic and the everyday through the prism of new animism. The creative practices discussed are geographically diverse, including examples from South Africa, Brazil, Ukraine, South Korea, Mexico, the Caribbean, Europe and North America. Through these wide-ranging approaches and case studies, the book asks, what are potential futures materialised through artworks that rethink the present as a world populated by things, a place where the sensibility of materials becomes carriers of agency?

This edited volume argues that animism and ferality are vital tools for artists and creative professionals to describe and critique the increasing inequalities and continuous states of emergency that characterise late-stage capitalism. The concept of going feral is a critical framework to frame contemporary issues such as environmentalism, waste and discard studies, and speculate ways of decentring anthropomorphism.

September 2025 | Hardback 236x160mm | 204 Pages | ISBN: 979-8-8819-0322-0

**SUBJECTS** Sociology, Interdisciplinary, Cultural Studies

VIEW/ORDER ONLINE AT [vernonpress.com/book/2375](https://www.vernonpress.com/book/2375)

