

Practices

Raving

McKenzie Wark

## MORE PRAISE FOR RAVING

“McKenzie Wark has done it again! With her personal journey into questioning the foundations of everything from how capitalism works to the way our bodies and very identities are under radical transformation, Wark breaks it all down. A must-read for those who are interested in the evolution of digital music and the way it has reshaped the world around us.”

—Paul D. Miller, a.k.a. DJ Spooky, author of *Rhythm Science*

“With loving precision, McKenzie Wark’s eyes and ears pay attention to the innumerable tiny interactions, gestures, and rites that make up the all-night drug-and-dance party. *Raving* radiantly understands the rave as a construction site for transitory kinship structures—a pocket in timespace that is a haven for fugitives from consensus banality—a miniature home world for the aliens already on this planet. Ravers occupy the city’s abandoned places and turn them into zones of abandon, where identities dissolve, where you can lose yourself and find

yourself. Wark's work is a font of deliriously inventive and witty language—immerse yourself in her text to discover speaker demons, rave condoms, punishers, and sidechain time.”

—Simon Reynolds, author of *Energy Flash: A Journey through Rave Music and Dance Culture*

**Raving**

## **Practices**

A series edited by Margret Grebowicz

*Fly-Fishing* by Christopher Schaberg

*Juggling* by Stewart Lawrence Sinclair

*Raving* by McKenzie Wark

*Running* by Lindsey A. Freeman

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“And thus, when knowledge has passed through infinity, grace returns; such that it appears in its purest form simultaneously either in that human physique which is none, or in the one that has an infinite consciousness—in the marionette, or in the God.”

“Therefore,” I said a bit confused, “we would have to eat from the tree of knowledge yet again, so as to relapse into a state of innocence?”

“Indeed,” he answered; “this is the last chapter in the history of the world.”

—**Heinrich von Kleist**, “On the Marionette Theater,”  
trans. Luce deLire



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*For all my scouts and ravens*

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Practices series editor Margret Grebowicz asked me on July 27, 2021, if I could submit a book for the series by September 22, 2021. In a moment of pure mania, I said yes. Apart from commissioned articles I hadn't done any real book-project writing that I was happy with since I started hormones in 2018. Your request helped me break a curse, so thank you, Margret.

I already had some bits, at least. The opening paragraphs of "Rave as Practice" appeared in *Unter: Rave Posters*, vol. 1, 2015–2020 (Brooklyn, NY: Untermaid Products, 2021). An earlier version of "Xeno-euphoria" appeared in *Noon Journal*, no. 12 ("New Communities"). I also used a version of that text for Side A of a spoken-word Bandcamp album I made during the 2020 lockdown called *Lonesome Cowgirl*, over a mix by Nick Bazzano. It was also half of a talk I gave via Zoom for HKW in Berlin on Mark Fisher's "acid communism." The "Ketamine Femmunism" text grew out of the other half of that. Part of "Excessive Machine" was first performed with a track by Body

Techniques at *Writing on Raving*, a series initiated by Zoë Beery and Geoffrey Mak at Nowadays in January 2022. Thanks to everyone for the space to experiment with this writing.

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