

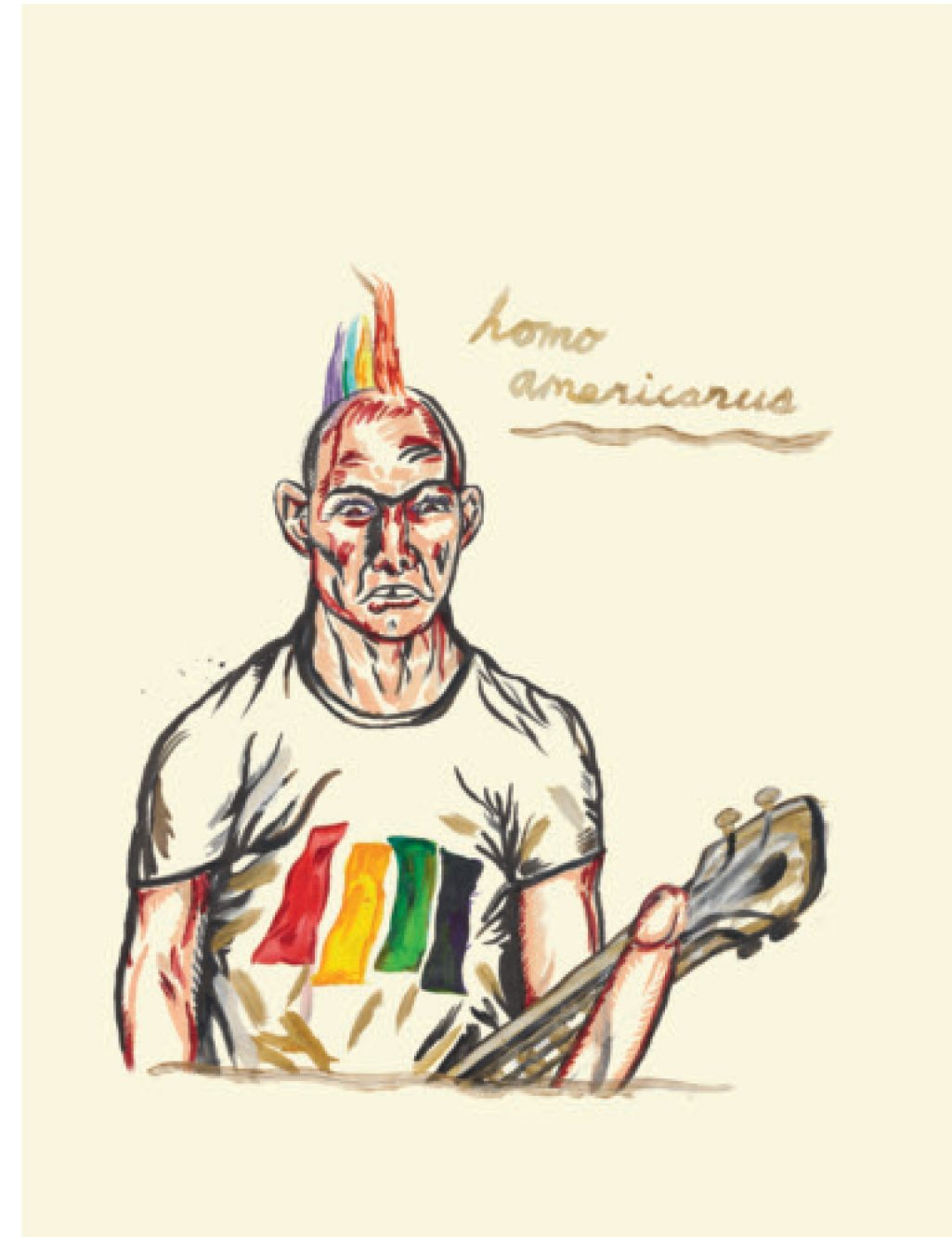
Philosophically profound, deeply literary and biting in his satire, Raymond Pettibon is the foremost draftsman of his generation, and one of America's most important contemporary artists. Approaching “high” and “low” subject matter with equal appetite and comfort, Pettibon plumbs the depths of American sexuality, politics, subcultures, mores, and intellectual histories through themes ranging from Shakespeare to Gumby, surfers to the Bible, baseball to German Romanticism.

Published on the occasion of his major European traveling retrospective at the Deichtorhallen Hamburg – Sammlung Falckenberg, *Raymond Pettibon: Homo Americanus* presents over six hundred works from every part of the artist's career, the majority of which have never been shown before. Arranged thematically in thirty-two chapters, this unique catalogue charts the appearance and development of the themes that have come to define Pettibon's expansive oeuvre. Different sections are introduced with excerpts from interviews conducted with the artist, and are further discussed in a detailed appendix by curator Ulrich Loock. Beyond shedding valuable light on the genesis and cross-pollination of Pettibon's thematic interests, this catalogue is the first to tackle the artist's work as a whole — as a kind of hive mind of American culture whose various branches constantly address and reinterpret one another. Of particular interest are Pettibon's own readings of individual works in the book. In excerpts paired with corresponding images, Pettibon guides readers through his complex, often meandering turns of thought; never condescending, they invite readers to enter more deeply into his thinking without sacrificing the intellectual rigor and sense of mystery that makes Pettibon's work so compelling and challenging. The book includes a complete facsimile of his first artist's book, *Captive Chains* — almost entirely unavailable for decades — in addition to numerous early drawings completed with his nephew, record covers, flyers, and sections dedicated to collages and drawings from the 1980s to today. Also featured are biographical notes compiled by Lucas Zwirner, offering a nuanced, insightful reading of Pettibon's history, whose early life and work is often simplified and categorically tied to punk rock, and instead underscores the complexities surrounding the artist's long-standing relationship with art, literature, and American culture. This unparalleled selection of Pettibon's work is the definitive single volume for novices and experts alike.

Born in 1957 in Tucson, Arizona, Raymond Pettibon grew up in Hermosa Beach, California and graduated with a degree in economics from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1977. His work has been represented by David Zwirner since 1995 and has been exhibited widely throughout the United States and abroad. In 2016, *Raymond Pettibon: Homo Americanus* marks the largest presentation of the artist's work to date, organized by the Deichtorhallen Hamburg, where it is first on view before traveling to the Museum der Moderne Salzburg. Prominent venues which have held recent solo exhibitions of the artist's work include the Kumu Kunstmuseum, Tallinn, Estonia (2015); Kunstmuseum Luzern, Lucerne, Switzerland (2012); Kestnergesellschaft, Hanover (2007); Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna; Centro de Arte Contemporáneo de Málaga, Spain (both 2006); Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla, California; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (both 2005). In 1998, he had his first American museum presentation, organized by The Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago in collaboration with the Philadelphia Museum of Art, which traveled to The Drawing Center, New York and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles. Pettibon lives and works in New York.

Ulrich Loock was born in 1953 in Braunschweig, Germany. He was Director of Kunsthalle Bern from 1985–1997, Director of Kunstmuseum Luzern, Lucerne, Switzerland from 1997–2001, and Deputy Director of Museu de Serralves, Porto, Portugal from 2003–2010. He currently lives and works in Berlin as an independent curator, art critic, and lecturer. He has curated numerous exhibitions of artists such as Michael Asher, Matthew Barney, Marlene Dumas, Robert Gober, Katharina Grosse, Eberhard Havekost, Maria Lassnig, Sol LeWitt, Brice Marden, Gerhard Richter, Wilhelm Sasnal, Thomas Schütte, Thomas Struth, Luc Tuymans, and Christopher Wool. In 1995, he curated a comprehensive show of Raymond Pettibon's work at Kunsthalle Bern, and included the artist's work in the 2006 show *The 80s. A Topology* at Museu de Serralves.

Lucas Zwirner is Editor at David Zwirner Books and has contributed texts to gallery publications, including *On Kawara: Date Painting(s) in New York and 136 Other Cities* (2012), *Raymond Pettibon: To Wit* (2013), and *Jason Rhoades: PeaRoeFoam* (2015).



Raymond Pettibon: Homo Americanus Collected Works

David Zwirner Books / Deichtorhallen
Hamburg – Sammlung Falckenberg
2016
Hardcover, 7 × 10 ¼ in (17.8 × 26 cm)
688 pages, 600 color
ISBN 9781941701263
\$65 US & Canada | £40

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Texts by Ulrich Loock, Raymond Pettibon,
and Lucas Zwirner