



## Pictures Showing What Happens on Each Page of Thomas Pynchon's Novel Gravity's Rainbow

By Zak Smith



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**Gravity's Rainbow Illustrated: One Picture for Every Page features the work of an Ivy League-educated, punk-rock, porn-star visual artist who has created a drawing for every page of a novel that is widely considered to be the most difficult work of literature ever produced in English.**

Thomas Pynchon's Gravity's Rainbow (1973) has been called a modern Finnegans Wake for its challenging language, wild anachronisms, hallucinatory happenings, and fever-dream imagery. With Pictures Showing What Happens on Each Page of Thomas Pynchon's Novel Gravity's Rainbow, artist Zak Smith at once eases and expands readers' experience of the twentieth-century classic. Smith has created more than 750 pages of drawings, paintings, and photos—each derived from a page of Pynchon's novel. Extraordinary tableaux of the detritus of war—a burned-out Königstiger tank, a melted machine gun—coexist alongside such fantasmagoric Pynchon inventions as the “stumbling bird” and “Grigori the octopus.” Smith has said he aimed to be “as literal as possible” in interpreting Gravity's Rainbow, but his images are as imaginative and powerful as the prose they honor.

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## **Pictures Showing What Happens on Each Page of Thomas Pynchon's Novel Gravity's Rainbow By Zak Smith Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"The end result of his endeavor is less an illustrated novel than a series of eerie, high art interpretations."

**Marcela Valdes**, *Washington Post*

"The drawings are surprisingly detailed, colorful and contemplative, adding new layers to the text and potentially earning Pynchon some new fans." -**Whitney Matheson**, *USA Today*

"[*Pictures Showing What Happens on Each Page of Thomas Pynchon's Novel Gravity's Rainbow*] can be enjoyed on its own or read simultaneously with the 1973 novel, putting smith's art next to those discursive, intricate, elusive, overwritten sentences." -**Jeff Baker**, *The Oregonian*

"He draws a lurid and intoxicating netherworld, complete in its own right...an illuminating companion to the novel." Emily Barton, *Los Angeles Times*

#### From the Publisher

Thomas Pynchon's *Gravity's Rainbow* (1973), set in an alternative-universe version of World War II, has been called a modern *Finnegan's Wake* for its challenging language, wild anachronisms, hallucinatory happenings, and fever-dream imagery. With *Pictures Showing What Happens on Each Page of Thomas Pynchon's Novel Gravity's Rainbow*, artist Zak Smith at once eases and expands readers' experience of the book. A leading exponent of punk-based, DIY art, Smith here presents his most ambitious project to date -- an art book exactly as long as the work it's interpreting: 760 drawings, paintings, photos, and less definable images in 760 pages. Extraordinary tableaux of the detritus of war -- a burned-out Königstiger tank, a melted machine gun -- coexist alongside such phantasmagoric Pynchon inventions as the "stumbling bird" and "Girgori the octopus." Smith has stated his aim to be "as literal as possible" in interpreting *Gravity's Rainbow*, but his images are as imaginative and powerfully unique as the prose they honor.

#### About the Author

Zak Smith was born in Syracuse, New York, in 1976. In addition to the *Gravity's Rainbow* illustrations, which were shown in the 2004 Whitney Biennial and are now in the collection of the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, Smith's recent projects include the multipanel painting *100 Girls and 100 Octopuses* and an ongoing series of portraits of friends and acquaintances in the sex industry entitled *Girls in the Naked Girl Business* as well as a number of stand-alone paintings and drawings, abstract and otherwise. His work has appeared in numerous publications worldwide and is held in many public and private collections, including the Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Museum. He is a frequent contributor to several independent comics and zines, including *Papingand See How Pretty*, *See How Smart*. His first monograph, *Zak Smith: Pictures Of Girls*, was published in 2005.

### Users Review

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### **Ruth Graham:**

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### **Nathan Ramsey:**

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### **Allen Goehring:**

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### **Maria Green:**

On this era which is the greater man or who has ability to do something more are more important than other. Do you want to become one of it? It is just simple method to have that. What you are related is just spending your time very little but quite enough to enjoy a look at some books. One of many books in the top checklist in your reading list is usually Pictures Showing What Happens on Each Page of Thomas Pynchon's Novel Gravity's Rainbow. This book that is qualified as The Hungry Hillside can get you closer in turning into precious person. By looking way up and review this guide you can get many advantages.

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