

ALTERMODERN  
TATE TRIENNIAL

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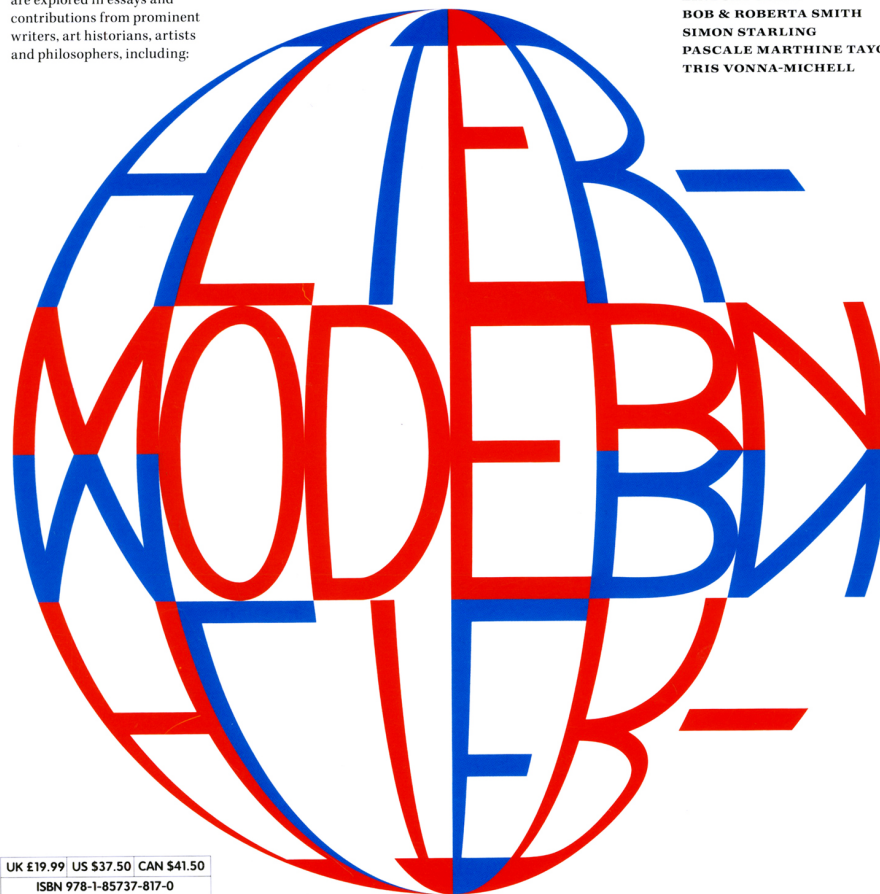
FEW BOOKS introduce a word into the language, as this one does. The term 'altermodern' has been coined by leading critical theorist and curator **NICOLAS BOURRIAUD** to describe the art that has arrived at the end of the postmodern period, made in today's global context, as a reaction against cultural standardisation. Key aspects of this new modernity are explored in essays and contributions from prominent writers, art historians, artists and philosophers, including:

**TOM MCCARTHY** & **SIMON CRITCHLEY**, **T.J. DEMOS**, **CARSTEN HÖLLER** and **OKWUI ENWEZOR**.

**NICOLAS BOURRIAUD** is Gulbenkian Curator of Contemporary Art at Tate Britain. He is the author of *Relational Aesthetics* and *Radicant*.

Features work by **FRANZ ACKERMANN**, **DARREN ALMOND**, **CHARLES AVERY**, **WALEAD BESHTY**, **SPARTACUS CHETWYND**, **MARCUS COATES**, **PETER COFFIN**, **MATTHEW DARBYSHIRE**, **SHAEZAD DAWOOD**, **TACITA DEAN** and **RUTH EWAN**.

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BRITAIN  
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**Katie  
PATERSON**

IT SEEMS THAT over time all the energy of the big bang is being converted into mass by  $E=mc^2$  – first forming particles, then atoms, stars, planets, life – and overall the entropy of the universe continues to increase. If the universe keeps expanding then the entropy will just increase and everything will slowly die and there will be no free energy left. (Isaac Asimov wrote a short story about that.) But maybe it will collapse, and in effect all the black holes will merge together into one massive black hole, and explode again into a new Big Bang? Sometimes I think of life as the localised reversal of entropy. When we grow we make matter more organised, but of course that is at the expense of increasing the entropy of other matter: the food we eat being converted into something less... pretty, you could say, haha. Well, enough rambling. ☺

*Email to Paterson from Alex Gibbs,  
Astronomer, 16 September 2008*

