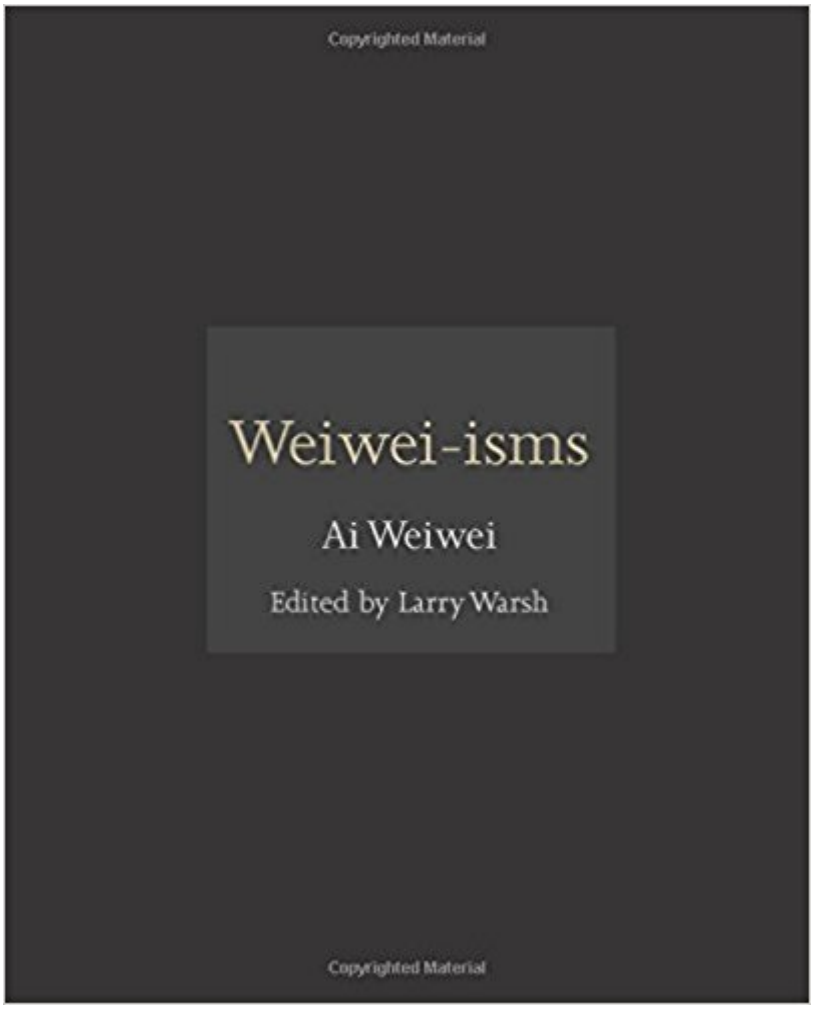
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Weiwei-isms



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Synopsis

This collection of quotes demonstrates the elegant simplicity of Ai Weiwei’s thoughts on key aspects of his art, politics, and life. A master at communicating powerful ideas in astonishingly few words, Ai Weiwei is known for his innovative use of social media to disseminate his views. The short quotations presented here have been carefully selected from articles, tweets, and interviews given by this acclaimed Chinese artist and activist. The book is organized into six categories: freedom of expression; art and activism; government, power, and moral choices; the digital world; history, the historical moment, and the future; and personal reflections. Together, these quotes span some of the most revealing moments of Ai Weiwei’s eventful career--from his risky investigation into student deaths in the 2008 Sichuan earthquake to his arbitrary arrest in 2011--providing a window into the mind of one of the world’s most electrifying and courageous contemporary artists. Select Quotes from the Book: ? On Freedom of Expression "Say what you need to say plainly, and then take responsibility for it." "A small act is worth a million thoughts." "Liberty is about our rights to question everything." On Art and Activism "Everything is art. Everything is politics." "The art always wins. Anything can happen to me, but the art will stay." "Life is art. Art is life. I never separate it. I don’t feel that much anger. I equally have a lot of joy." On Government, Power, and Making Moral Choice? "Once you’ve tasted freedom, it stays in your heart and no one can take it. Then, you can be more powerful than a whole country." "I feel powerless all the time, but I regain my energy by making a very small difference that won’t cost me much." "Tips on surviving the regime: Respect yourself and speak for others. Do one small thing every day to prove the existence of justice." On the Digital Worl? "Only with the Internet can a peasant I have never met hear my voice and I can learn what’s on his mind. A fairy tale has come true." "The Internet is uncontrollable. And if the Internet is uncontrollable, freedom will win. It’s as simple as that." "The Internet is the best thing that could have happened to China." On History, the Historical Moment, and the Futur? "If a nation cannot face its past, it has no future." "We need to get out of the old language." "The world is a sphere, there is no East or West." Personal Reflection? "I’ve never planned any part of my career--except being an artist. And I was pushed into that corner because I thought being an artist was the only way to have a little freedom." "Anyone fighting for freedom does not want to totally lose their freedom." "Expressing oneself is like a drug. I’m so addicted to it."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Chinese artist and humanitarian activist Ai Weiwei works innovatively in a bold variety of modes and media, from video works to sculpture made from the fragments of ancient statues of Buddha to salvaged pieces of old, traditional houses destroyed by developers. He has published groundbreaking art books; the Internet has been essential to his art and contact with the global community; and he is as in command of language as he is of images and objects. This little book collects AiÃ¢â ¬â„¢s aphorisms, or Ã¢â ¬Å“Weiwei-isms,Ã¢â ¬Â• distilled thoughts culled from AiÃ¢â ¬â„¢s writings, interviews, and Twitter posts on freedom of expression, human rights, art and activism, power and the government, and moral choices. Embattled in a Ã¢â ¬Å“war of wordsÃ¢â ¬Â• with the Chinese government, as Warsh notes, AiÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Ã¢â ¬Å“skill in wielding the brief phrase as cultural statement has gained scholarly and critical admiration as an art form unto itself.Ã¢â ¬Â• As brilliant and serious as Ai is, he is also companionable and uplifting: Ã¢â ¬Å“Liberty is about our rights to question everything.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬Å“My favorite word? ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s act.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬Å“Art is not an end but a beginning.Ã¢â ¬Â• --Donna Seaman

One of The Village Voice's Favorite Books for 2012One of Big Think's Best Art Books of 2012One of Huffington Post's Best Art Books for 2012, List of the 50 Greatest Creative Publications"Warsh has collected statements from Weiwei on topics ranging from technology to Twitter, freedom of speech to the power of action, and creativity to morality. Although loosely divided into chapters, the book and its brief but powerful quotations all reference back to humanity and the rights of all its members. Unfailingly pithy and refreshingly modest, the book reads quickly and conversationally. Inspirational through its simplicity and generating feelings of complicity, Weiwei succeeds in creating

obsessed readers and his desire for obsessed citizens, in China and the world at large, cannot be far behind."--Publishers Weekly (starred review)"[H]ere is a man who understands how to get messages to people. His expertise in artful dissemination is the 21st-century equivalent of Andy Warhol's brilliant populism. . . . [E]pigrammatic, pungent, uncompromising."--Peter Aspden, Financial Times"Physically Weiwei-isms is a black, small hardbound book, fitting nicely into a jacket pocket and meant to be carried around, perused at chance moments and ruminated on. It knowingly bears a resemblance to the little red books that were given out by Chairman Mao in order to popularize his philosophies to his subjects. Yet, brainwashing is not the dastardly attempt of the author this time; it is more akin to brain-widening. Take a look for yourself. I feel safe in saying that some statement, one of his turns of phrase, will hit you like a punch in the gut, likely leaving an emotional bruise that will take great time and thought to recover from."--Luke Goldstein, Blogcritics"If it's even possible to put a whole person into your pocket, Weiwei-isms comes close. . . . Unlike The Little Red Book, carrying Weiwei-isms isn't compulsory, but you'll find yourself compelled to read it again and again and fit it into your head and heart, if not your pocket."--Bob Duggan, Big Think"For those who have been moved by his struggles with the Chinese authorities, who admire his art or dance along to his irreverent interpretation of Psy's 'Gangnam Style', taken up by artists and museums across the world on YouTube, Ai Weiwei's little book of sayings is for you."--Sarah Greenberg, Editor of RA Magazine"This little book collects Ai's aphorisms, or 'Weiwei-isms,' distilled thoughts culled from Ai's writings, interviews, and Twitter posts on freedom of expression, human rights, art and activism, power and the government, and moral choices. . . . As brilliant and serious as Ai is, he is also companionable and uplifting."--Booklist"Although this book, a collection of quotes from Chinese artist Ai Weiwei, is only four by five inches in dimension, it contains powerful and dangerous ideas. Powerful for general readers: 'Creativity is part of human nature. It can only be untaught.' And dangerous to China's leaders: 'The people who control culture in China have no culture.' Chinese authorities have beaten and jailed Ai, destroyed his studio, and threatened his loved ones because he won't stop denouncing government oppression. Buy this book to keep his brave words alive, since, as he points out, 'The government computer has one button: delete.'"--R.C. Baker, Village Voice"PERFECT FOR: Dissidents-in-training, Ai fans and anyone with a Twitter handle."--Huffington Post"His quotations, collected from his own writings, interviews and Tweets, offer musings on art, politics and Chinese life. They also show us the man himself: uncompromising, upfront, amusing, and charismatic, with an often wicked sense of humour."--Clarissa Sebag-Montefiore, The Independent"The little black book of Weiwei-isms packs a serious, pensive punch."--Karen Day, Cool Hunting"Don't let the size fool you. Ai Weiwei's 'little

black book’ will leave a lasting impression."--Sylvia Tsai, ArtAsiaPacific"This wonderful little book of memorable quotes from the Chinese artist Ai Weiwei--culled from his numerous videos and posts on his blog and Twitter--encourages us to accept the challenges of life and to use our time on this earth to stand up for human rights and a better life for all."--John May, Generalist"Weiwei-isms is not another trite collection of quotes gathered for the casual reader. From a man who admonishes ’Say what you need to say plainly, and then take responsibility for it’ comes this short, frank, and thoughtful collection that does just that."--Michael Abatemarco, Pasatiempo, New Mexican

If you know the work of Ai Weiwei, you will love this book. Check out this write up from the excellent Gwarlingo Blog:[...]I didnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t expect a publication that has been touted as one of the ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Best Art Books of 2012ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â to stand just six inches tall and contain only two photographs. But as Chinese artist Ai WeiweiÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s new book Weiwei-isms proves, small can be powerful.This slim, pocket-sized volume compiles quotes made by Ai in interviews, in newspaper articles, on his blog, and via Twitter. ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Chairman Mao was the first in the world to use Twitter,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• says Ai. ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“All his quotations are within 140 words.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• Weiwei-isms, published by Princeton University Press and designed by Pamela Schnitter with art direction by Maria Lindenfeldar, is brilliantly executed, and the high-quality paper and sewn binding are a pleasure to leaf through.AiÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s reference to Mao is important, for his book cleverly satirizes the ChairmanÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s infamous book of quotations, ironically referred to as the Little Red Book in the West.It is uncommon for a visual artist to privilege words over images, but that is precisely what Ai has done again and again over the course of his career. In a culture where free-speech is suppressed, direct discourse has exceptional valueÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •a value that Western society has largely forgotten in this age of political hyperbole, Internet blather, and ad speak.It is one thing to create art that skirts government censors through subtlety and ambiguity (as artists have done in repressed societies for centuries), and quite another to wear your politics on your sleeve (or your Twitter feed, in this case). As Ai discovered, such boldness can quickly get you thrown into prison, or worse.For Ai, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“this struggle is a ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Ëœwar of words,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• says editor Larry Warsh in his introduction to Weiwei-isms, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•and his own wordsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •spoken, written, or tweetedÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •are ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Ëœlike a bullet out of the gun,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Ai Weiwei repeatedly points out, and centuries of history attest, human rights and freedom of expression are not set by anyoneÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s agenda. They are inalienable rights, central to what makes us

human.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•Both AiÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s Twitter feed and censored blog (which I have written about before) are works of art in their own right. And as Clarissa Sebag-Montefiore writes in the Independent, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Ai is not only a master of generating self-publicity online but also of the short, sweet quote. At his best he can use Twitter in a way that a Japanese poet might use a haiku: harnessing the compactness of the form to his advantage. ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã ËœDuring the days in detention, I thought most about the moon,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ posted Ai in 2011. Such pared-down lyricism makes his language a pleasure to read.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• After all, this is the land of Confucius and Lao Tzu.One of the things I value most about AiÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s work is that he doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t limit himself to one particular medium. ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Everything is art,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• Ai says. ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Everything is politics.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•Ai lives his art, as seen in Alison KlaymanÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s recent documentary Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry. After Ai is beaten by police for trying to testify for Tan Zuoren, a fellow earthquake investigator, he is diagnosed with a cerebral hemorage and must undergo emergency brain surgery.Ai photographs his hospital experience and later, he and his assistants methodically go from police station to police station filing complaints about the attack, but getting nowhere. The act of confronting Chinese bureaucracy and injustice directly and documenting the result is the kind of art Franz Kafka could appreciate.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“I want to prove that the system is not working,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• argues Ai. ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“You canÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t simply say that the system is not working. You have to work through it.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•Weiwei-isms is organized into six themes: Freedom of Expression; Art and Activism; Government, Power, and Making Moral Choices; Digital World; History, Historical Moment, and the Future; and Personal Reflections. The little black book is a direct snub to the Chinese government and represents everything MaoÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s Little Red Book does not: individuality, social change, the basic human right of freedom speech. This is a big burden for a tiny 120-page book to carry, and yet it does the job remarkably well.The mere act of compiling AiÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s statements into a book that mocks MaoÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s legacy is a radical gesture. And I would go so far as to say that the act of purchasing and sharing this book is a small show of support for human rights. Of course, Chinese citizens are the ones who would benefit most from Weiwei-isms, and they will not have easy access to this publicationÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •an injustice we would do well to keep in mind.In the West we have become indifferent to free speech. We have forgotten that words have the power to change minds and incite action. But totalitarian governments and religious fundamentalists know better. They ban books and censor not because they are crazy or ignorant, but because they comprehend reality: the ability to speak our own truth is the most potent and human act of all.

This book is much smaller than I would have expected (think deck of playing cards). It is a nice gift for anyone who loves Ai Weiwei or just weird existential quotes. It is hard cover and the paper is of a very good quality. The only problem is that it came with a sticker from on the back which left a mark from the adhesive. There's not really much you can do about this other can buy it from a store where they don't slap a sticker on the back.

This item is true to photo, and just perfect. had the best price I could find anywhere! Shipped with prime right away. Not to mention this is a wonderful book, a quick read if you'd like it to be, wonderful collection of Ai Weiwei's quotes. Very satisfied.

Love this compact book! Great intro to Ai Weiwei.

A gem, a keeper, a journal of quotes, many of which are immanently quotable. Absolutely love it. It made me love Ai Wei-Wei's integrity and passion and commitment.

Nice!

I love to have my mind opened and flipped into new dimensions. Thank you. This book is a miniature .... mind opening giant !

It was surprisingly short and not enough information . It was my mistake. Didn't know what I was bying. Newer the less it was quite beautyful

Download to continue reading...

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