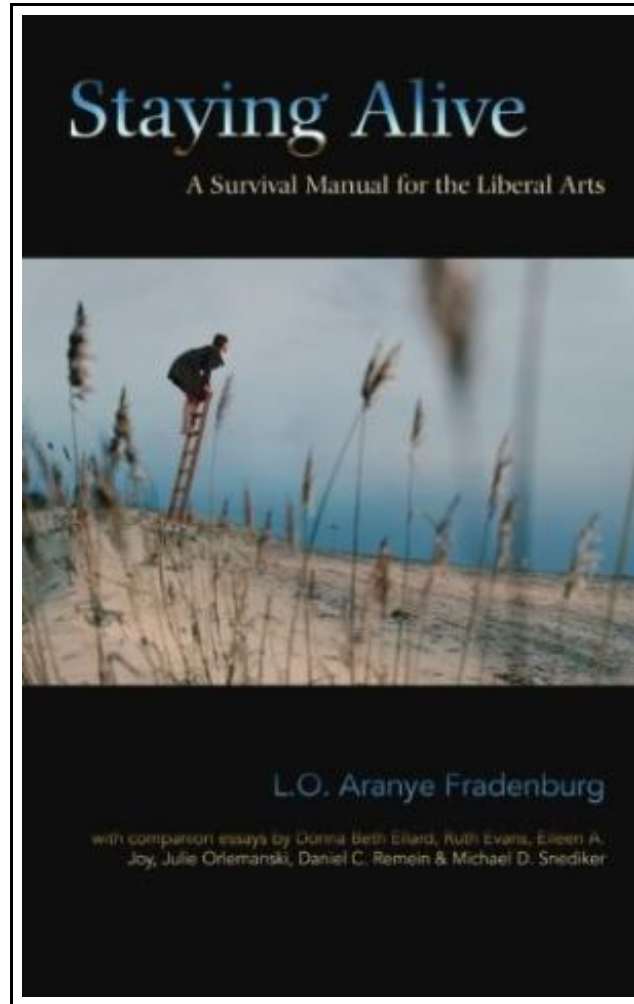# Staying Alive: A Survival Manual for the Liberal Arts

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Reviews

This ebook is very gripping and fascinating. Sure, it is engage in, nevertheless an amazing and interesting literature. It is extremely difficult to leave it before concluding, once you begin to read the book.

(Ms. Ora Buckridge)

STAYING ALIVE: A SURVIVAL MANUAL FOR THE LIBERAL ARTS

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Punctum Books. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 372 pages. Dimensions: 8.0in. x 5.0in. x 0.8in.Staying Alive: A Survival Manual for the Liberal Arts fiercely defends the liberal arts in and from an age of neoliberal capital and techno-corporatization run amok, arguing that the public universitys purpose is not vocational training, but rather the cultivation of what Fradenburg calls artfulness, including the art of making knowledge. In addition to sustained critical and creative thinking, the humanities develop the minds capacities for real-time improvisational communication and interpretation, without which we can neither thrive nor survive. Humanist pedagogy and research use play, experimentation and intersubjective exchange to foster forms of artfulness critical to the future of our species. From perception to reality-testing to concept-formation and logic, the arts and humanities teach us to see, hear and respond more keenly, and to imagine, or model, new futures and possibilities. Innovation of all kinds, technological or artistic, depends on the enhancement of the skills proper to staying alive. Bringing together psychoanalysis, neuroscience, animal behavioral research, biology and evolutionary theory, and premodern literarature (from Virgil to Chaucer to Shakespeare), Fradenburg offers a bracing polemic against the technocrats of higher education and a vibrant new vision for the humanities as both living art and new life science. Contrary to recent polemics that simply urge the humanities to become more scientistic or technology-focused, to demonstrate their utility or even trophy their uselessness, Staying Alive does something remarkably different: it argues for the humanism of a new scientific paradigm based on complexity theory and holistic and ecological approaches to knowledge-making. It urges us to take the further step of realizing not only that we can promote and enhance neuroplastic connectivity and social-emotional cognition, but also that the humanities have always already been doing so. Nature always exceeds itself in...

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