



Fabulous Harlequin: ORLAN and the Patchwork Self

By Jorge Daniel Veneciano, Rhonda Garelick

University of Nebraska Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Fabulous Harlequin: ORLAN and the Patchwork Self, Jorge Daniel Veneciano, Rhonda Garelick, For four decades, the internationally renowned French artist ORLAN has interrogated every defining aspect of being human---gender, ethnicity, religion, beauty, physiognomy, and even physiology itself---through an endlessly mutating oeuvre that defies categorization. Performance, sculpture, photography, poetry, design---ORLAN not only creates within these media, she disappears into them, wilfully dissolving and reconfiguring her identity through her work. ORLAN is most famous for her series of cosmetic-surgery performances in the 1990s, in which she reconfigured her face and body as a critique of the standards of beauty imposed on women. In 2008, in a seemingly radical departure, ORLAN chose to disappear from her work entirely, effacing her famously protean features from her creations. In fact, she had chosen an even more dramatic way to dismantle her identity and perform it anew. With her Harlequin Coat project, ORLAN borrows the commedia dell'arte trickster hero, the harlequin, as her alter ego, using his patchwork motif as a metaphor for the fragmented, multi-coloured, multilayered performance of the human signature. It is her most collaborative work to date, involving, at different stages, artists from...



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