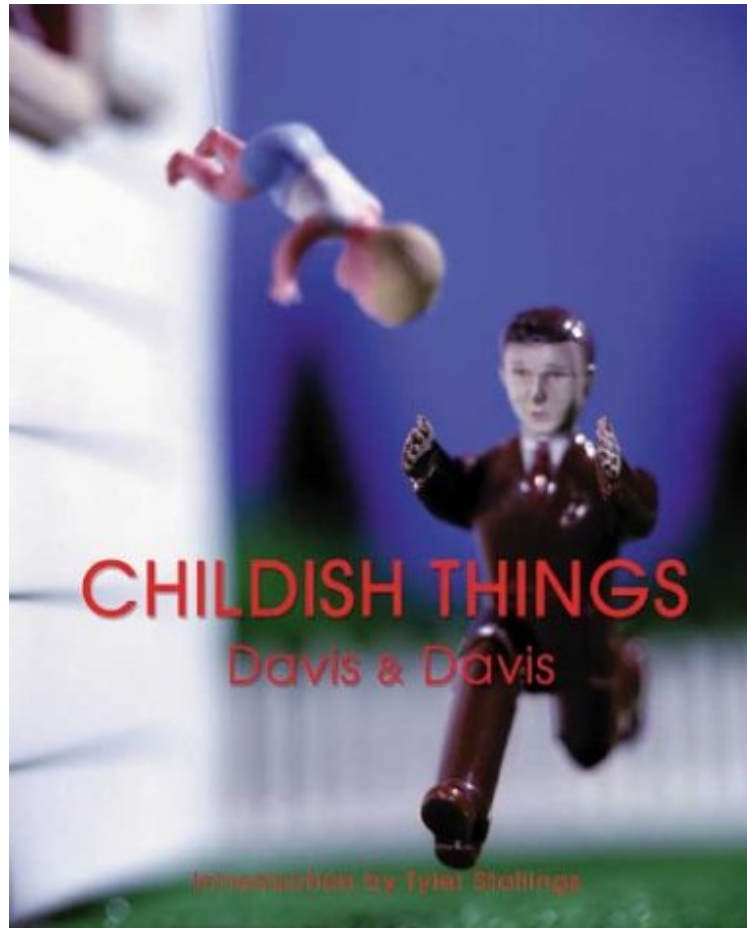


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Childish Things

Denise Davis, Scott Davis
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Denise Davis, Scott Davis : Childish Things before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Childish Things:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Avid Art Collectors Love This Book! By Jolene Myers We first saw the photos of "Davis and Davis" after reading a glowing L.A. Times review of their show, "Childish Things" at the Watts Art Center. The Davises arrange found and/or discarded toys into unsettling dioramas that aren't like any photos we've seen before. The photos seem at first to be about childhood. My interpretation after studying them, however, is that they are really about trying to make sense of our only partially remembered childhood experiences. The prints suggest that our poor understanding of our memories results in our inability to learn fully from them. We also love this book for the candy-solar-saturated photos themselves with their witty, slightly macabre humor. Craig Myers

Taking the position that lost and abandoned toys retain repressed memories of prepubescent trauma and the deep-seated guilt associated with the playing of forbidden games, the photographic team of Davis Davis have created staged

images of mini-psychodramas using forlorn toys to portray the conflicted children who left them behind. In scenes such as a little boy stuck atop a teeter-totter and a baby falling out of a window while its father rushes to try and catch it, they explore the darker side of humanity, deflate the cherished myth of innocence, and point out that not even children are untainted and sinless.

"After perusing this book, we'll never look at our bendable little friends in quite the same way." -- Los Angeles Magazine
"Clever, mysterious, funny and weird what's not to like?!" -- Paul Reubens (aka Pee-wee Herman)
"Davis Davis have deftly unlocked the Pandora's box of childhood. . .shrouded in the unearthly glow of gorgeous Technicolor light." -- Elizabeth Dunbar, chief curator, Ulrich Museum of Art/Bush Outdoor Sculpture Collection
"In [the] luscious color photographs. . .toys. . .rescued from the streets and thrift stores. . .stage simple but poignant psychological dramas." -- Los Angeles Times
"The photographs. . .access an uncomfortable part of childhood when play was charged with a scab-picking provocativeness, toys were made strange." -- Robert Mailer Anderson, author of Boonville
"These photos...will make you laugh and squirm!...wonderful look at child anxiety and sexuality...a must for your collection." -- Catherine Opie, photographer
"These visual stories cunningly explore the darker side of childhood while demystifying a few notions of innocence." -- Clear magazine
"This collection of photos...is a sort of paeon to the darker moments of childhood." -- Globe and Mail
"[This book] ought to elicit some sort of emotional response from the reader, be it laughter or tears." -- Step Inside Design
About the Author
Davis Davis, also known as Denise and Scott Davis, are a married professional photographic team. In addition to a recent solo show at the Heather Marx Gallery in San Francisco, they have exhibited at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco, the Downey Museum of Art, and the Huntington Beach Art Center. Their work is in the collections of California State University, California State Polytechnic University, Cypress College, and the Kinsey Research Institute. They live in Los Angeles. Tyler Stallings is the curator of exhibitions at the Laguna Art Museum. He is the coeditor of Uncontrollable Bodies: Testimonies of Identity and Culture. He lives in Southern California.