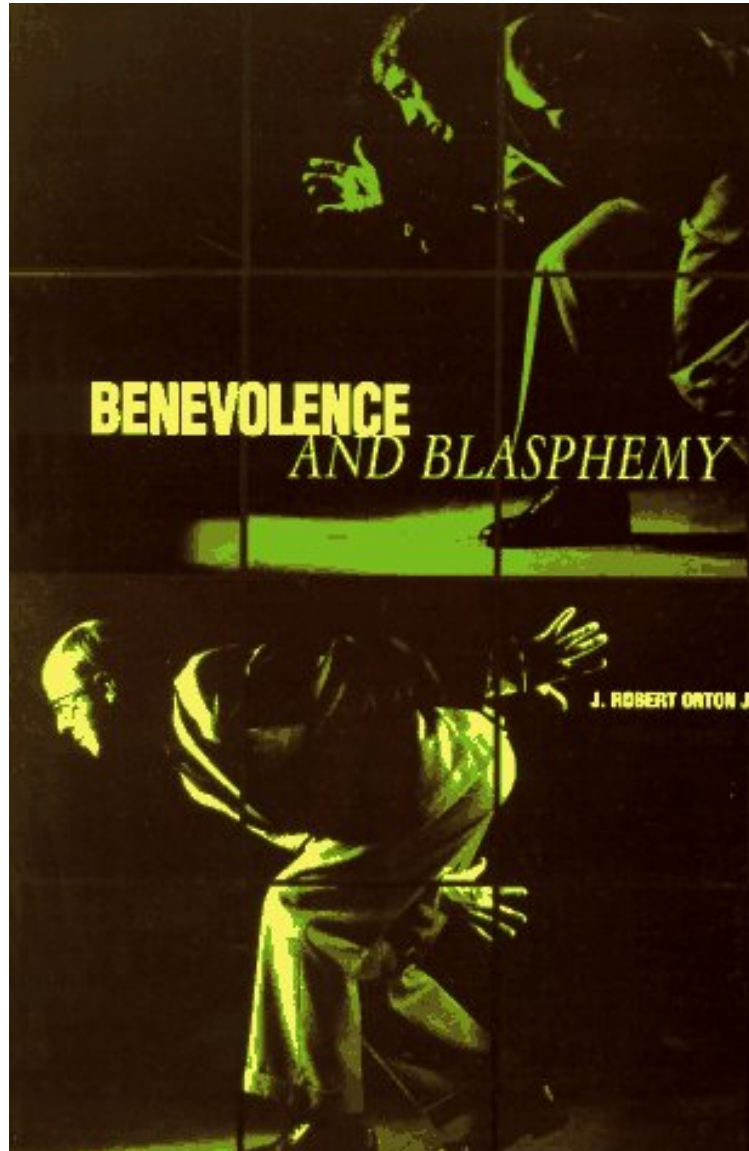


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Book by Orton, J. Robert

Benevolence and Blasphemy is a collection of anecdotes, criticism, and witty, sometimes absurdist reflections from this from this patron to many contemporary artists. Robert Orton walks the fine line between a lighthearted, unpretentious investigation and a highly serious commitment to both art and education. Orton tells of his installation of contemporary art in his own corporate headquarters -- how the receptionist refused to work under the gaze of a Francesco Clemente painting, because she believed it gave off an evil aura. *Benevolence and Blasphemy* is the story of the vibrant and grandiose characters that comprise the drama of art collecting, from the creators themselves, to the museum curators, to the gallery dealers, to the auctioneers, to Orton himself. He candidly reveals his feelings about dealers such as Mary Boone and the arrogance he found in many New York galleries, about his mishaps with artists such as Mary Miss and Maria Nordman. And he writes about such treasured friends as Paula Cooper, Marion Goodman and John Weber. *Benevolence and Blasphemy* is the chronicle of a journey into a world that remains closed to many. -- Midwest Book