

PARIS SCRATCH ~ bart plantenga

[RQ's First Advertorial]



advertorial /,advə:'tɔ:riəl/ - noun: *advertorial*; plural noun: *advertorials* - a newspaper or magazine advertisement giving information about a product in the style of an editorial or objective journalistic article.

[The complete PARIS SCRATCH is now available from Sensitive Skin.](#)

The skill and intensity with which plantenga chronicles these sorties into life lived at the edge should ensure his place in the next pantheon of great bohemian saints and sinners.

Kevin Riordan, Chicago Reader, Coal Hill Review

I'm really excited to announce this because [PARIS SCRATCH](#) is a magical book containing 365 [1 per day] not quite poems; not quite journal entries - "zen blink meta-factual snapshots of everyday Paris life" where the author lived for some 3 years, deejayed, worked everyday jobs and wrote for outlets such as *Paris Passion*, *Paris Free Voice*, *The Frank*, etc.

"A marvelous book - imagine Baudelaire taking a camera & throwing out his pen in a rebellious manner then taking snapshots of everything that comes his way..."

• *Nina Zivancevic, author of Living on Air & Death of NYC*

bart plantenga spent much time roaming the Paris streets, but instead of

documenting with a camera he chose a pen instead, scribbling observations while walking in ragged notepads in a handwriting not quite illegible.

I really like the way *he* describes it: “Wandering the streets & writing simultaneously fuses two key creative acts – if worn shoe heels & barely legible scribbles can be considered manifestations of creativity. When you live in a city long enough, you wake up one day & what was fascinating & compelling yesterday suddenly becomes the background for routine. You may not even notice you’ve stopped looking, curiosity curbed, eyes down to the ground & fixed on getting from point A to point B. To reinvent my relation to my surroundings – first Paris & later NYC – I came up with the Unloaded Camera Snapshots series, a simple exercise to document the ‘snapshots’ of everyday life. They served as attempts to re-pollinate existence with the fecund, oft-neglected details of the everyday, *la vie quotidienne*.”

plantenga was born in Amsterdam, grew up on the American East Coast, lived all over America, moved to Paris and eventually back to his native Amsterdam. He is the author of the much-excerpted novel [*Beer Mystic*](#), which *Luc Sante* described as: “Top-fermented, with a good nose, an acrid middle, a dry finish – bubbly and acidulous in reserved measure – and with ambient yeast peculiar to the Lower East Side, the kind that turns concrete to dust. Plantenga is a poet and a prankster as well as a distinguished bathtub brewer. He deserves immediate investigation.”

His short story collection [*Wiggling Wishbone*](#) and novella [*Spermatagonia: The Isle of Man*](#) earned him positive reviews and favorable comparisons to JG Ballard, Philip K. Dick, William Gibson. *Andrei Codrescu, National Public Radio* described his writing as “frightfully intelligent.”

His books on yodeling [*YODEL-AY-EE-OOOO: The Secret History of Yodeling Around the World*](#) [Routledge, 2004] [*Yodel in HiFi: From Kitsch Folk to Contemporary Electronica*](#) plus the CD compilation [*Rough Guide to Yodel*](#) received worldwide attention: NPR, BBC, Al-Jazeera, ABC television, WNYC, WFMU, *Rolling Stone*, *Vanity Fair*, *Washington Post*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *UTNE Reader*, *The Wire*, *Village Voice*, *London Review*. *New York Times Magazine* featured *Yodel-Ay-Ee-Oooo* in its “6th Annual Year of Ideas”. The books have created the misunderstanding that he is one of the world’s foremost yodel experts.

His work has appeared in many academic journals, popular magazines, literary journals: [*Ambit, Evergreen Review, Vokno, Exquisite Corpse, Downtown, Urban Grafitti, Fringecore, Sandbox, Carolina Quarterly, Mississippi Review*] and mainstream media: *The Guardian, Times of London, American Heritage, American Book Review, Actuel, New Hampshire, Michigan Today, Brooklyn Rail, KLM Holland Herald, American Lawyer...*

He also writes about refugees for both Vox Populi & Truthdig.

He has lectured/read at the Library of Congress, Rotterdam Opera Days, Sound Escape Conference [Toronto], NYU Fales Library, The Brooklyn Bridge Reading, & countless venues around the world.

Anthologies: *Nation-KGB Nonfiction Reader; Waiting for a Train: Jimmie Rodgers's America; Up Is Up, But So Is Down: New York's Downtown Literary Scene; Reggae, Rasta, Revolution: Jamaican Music from Ska to Dub* [Simon & Schuster]; *Sonic Geography Imagined and Remembered; Semiotext(e) SF, Crimes of the Beat, Radiotext(e), Noirotica #3, Fiction International, Best American Erotica 1994* [Simon & Schuster].

He is one of the co-founders of the NYC-based [Unbearables](#) writing group, which has produced numerous anthologies and countless thematic lit events since their founding in the later 1980s.

He is also a DJ-radiomaker and has produced guest radio shows for the BBC and VPRO (NL), has appeared on a dozen NPR radio shows, as well as NBC and ABC TV plus public radio in the Netherlands, France and Switzerland. He has produced his radio show Wreck This Mess since 1986 in NYC (WFMU), Paris (Radio Libertaire) & Amsterdam (Radio 100/Radio Patapoe/Mixcloud) where he now lives.

"Paris Scratch" is a beautiful, picturesque read that I've been savoring slowly for a couple of weeks now. In the tradition of writers like Georges Perec, Roland Barthes, Patrick Modiano, Jean-Paul Clebert, with echoes of Queneau's "Exercises in Style," Plantenga captures a Paris that finds beauty and wonder in simple exchanges between prostitutes and shopkeepers, children, workers, and random passersby. ... The synthesis of poetry and prose, the homage to the visual image, and the recognition of the sublime beauty of the unspectacular, make this a compelling and immensely satisfying read. Sip this book like cognac.

Alfred Vitale, author, academic, editor of RANT

The companion to Paris Scratch, [NY SIN PHONEY IN FACE FLAT MINOR](#) (Sensitive Skin) documents New York using the same tactics and will appear in November 2016.

Please let me know if you are interested. Thanks so much,
Blandine Broche

** For free pdf or paper reviewer's copy: contact us & we will forward your request to the publisher.*

[The INSANE Logic Of The YODEL](#)