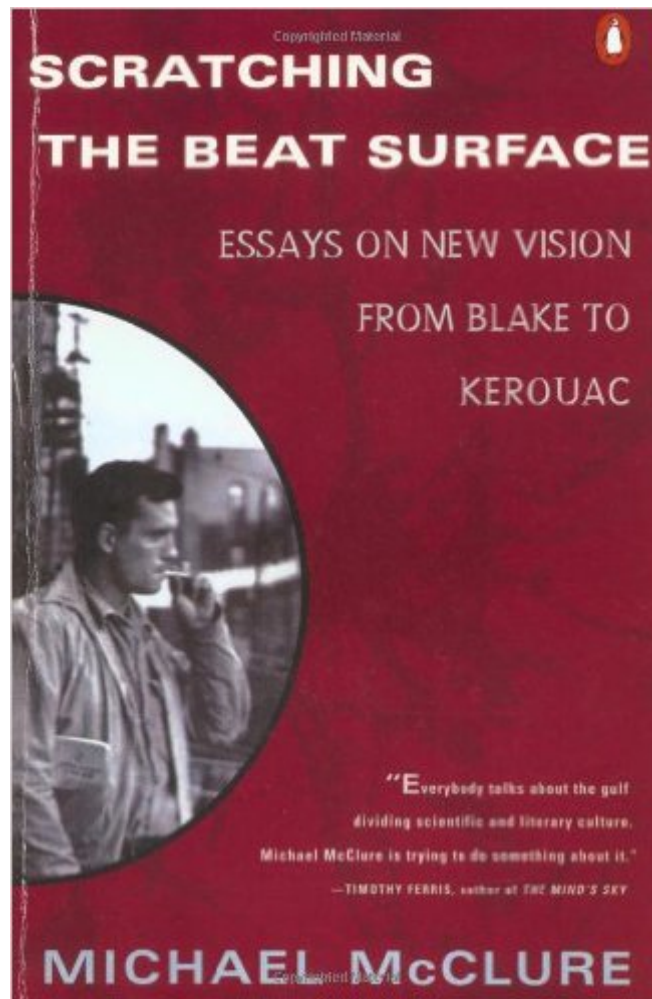


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Scratching The Beat Surface: Essays On New Vision From Blake To Kerouac



Synopsis

This insider's view of the Beat scene of the fifties and early sixties vividly marks the advancement of a new perception of art as "a living bio-alchemical organism" through essays by a poet and playwright who helped shape the movement.

Book Information

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Penguin Books (November 1, 1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0140232524

ISBN-13: 978-0140232523

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.4 x 7.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,273,689 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #90 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Movements & Periods > Beat Generation](#) #3310 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > New Age & Spirituality > New Thought](#) #4413 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > United States](#)

Customer Reviews

I've read and watched some of McClure's poetry and drama and found it uninterestingly narcissistic, disappointing because he writes from a presumably environmentalist viewpoint, although it's hard to get much significance out of his version of ecology except for occasional rants against things like feed lot beef. I thought this book, which purports to be about his fellow Beat writers, would be more comprehensible. Instead, I found it less, as though he's writing in some special language inaccessible to the uninitiated. The story of the Emperor's new clothes comes to mind: a big reputation (or "a big temperament" as another beat poet, Lew Welch, put it) on a little body of work.

As a person fortunate enough to have met Michael McClure, it seems only natural that I would appreciate this book. However, I read this book a few years before I was actually privileged with Mr. McClure's presence. What I found so refreshing about this book is that not only are we, as readers, exposed to new insight into the Beat phenomenon but we are graced with the knowledge of someone who was there and lived it. McClure allows us into his mind and gives us a private tour of what many literary individuals have meant to him. While there are many wonderful and deserving

books out there on the topic, one can't help but feel blessed upon discovering this beauty. I found that it not only allowed me to experience literature in a whole new element but it also allowed me to experience it through the eyes of a quiet master of the art. This is definitely a read that I highly recommend.

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