

**QUERY / BOOK INTRO:**

This volume is a kaleidoscope of excerpts from personal letters, memoir, miscellany, and poetry. Most of the 50 artists gathered here are poets and writers who sought fame or optimized freedom of expression half a century ago. Some were married, for better or worse, to film, music, performance, stage or visual art. A good number defy any one category and worked in several mediums to push an effect. Several of them are still producing their art.

Industry has changed less in 50 years than you, as reader and artist, might believe. People are still people, after all. Artists continue to be artists. Relations, conflicts, trials and errors, successes, hardships, prolific outputs and occasional burnouts of these artists merge with the everyday in such a way as to etch out essential info from the art hub of Manhattan in the 1950s through the 1980s.

To use this volume well, intrepid reader, please consider each of the above data. Study the styles of these writers. Heed yet discard any advice. Imitate and build upon or deconstruct whatever turns you on and whatever turns on you. Consider their artistic choices. Then relaunch yourself... into cyberspace and beyond, with whatever you create.