About the cover art  In Everything #2.11b (2003), Adrian Piper manipulates a group photograph of people before or after a meal by rubbing and erasing away their faces. The photograph is set against graph paper, and Piper imposes over some of the faces red type with the phrase “everything will be taken away.” The phrase includes words that are to be found in Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn’s quotation, “Once you have taken everything away from a man, he is no longer in your power. He is free.” In Piper’s Everything series (2003–ongoing), the phrase “everything will be taken away” has been inscribed on different images and surfaces in relation to different contexts, eliciting a wide range of responses and interpretations. “Everything will be taken away” becomes a refrain, a mantra, a warning, a statement of fact, and a guide to liberation from a particular space and time or mindset. In one possible reading of this artwork, Piper resists the role and power of photography to create and drive nostalgic desire by aesthetically stripping away the essence of the picture—in particular the face and its various expressions—as a preemptive or necessary means to detach from “all the relationships, communities, values, and practices that make anomaly and ostracism possible” (Lauren O’Neill-Butler, review of Adrian Piper at the Elizabeth Dee Gallery, Artforum, May 2008, www.mutualart.com/Article/Adrian-Piper/53723C168D7BEF29).—Susette Min

Adrian Piper (b. 1948) is a first-generation Conceptual artist who started exhibiting her work internationally at the age of twenty and graduated from the School of Visual Arts in 1969. Piper introduced issues of race and gender into the vocabulary of Conceptual art and explicit political content into Minimalism. In 2000 she further expanded the vocabulary of Conceptual art to include Vedic philosophical imagery and concepts. She is the recipient of many fellowships and awards in art and philosophy. Her seventh traveling retrospective opened at the Museum of Modern Art in spring 2018. Her artwork won the Golden Lion for Best Artist at the 56th Venice Biennale.


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Cover
Adrian Piper
Everything #2.11b, 2003
Photocopied photograph on graph paper, sanded with sandpaper, overprinted with inkjet text
8.5 × 11 in. (21.6 × 27.9 cm)
Collection Elizabeth Dee Gallery.
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