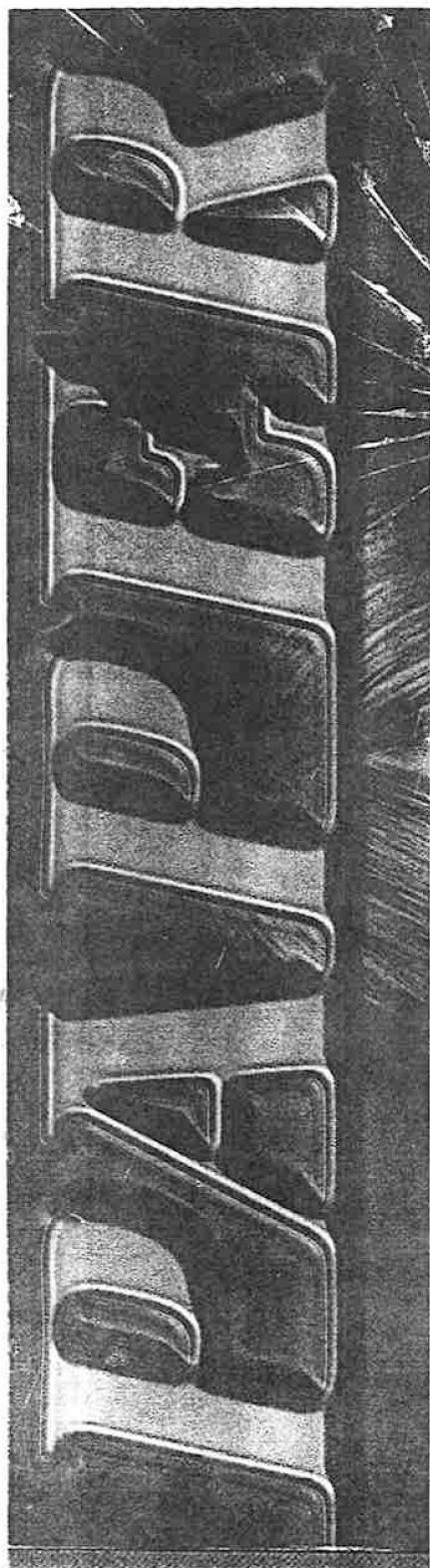


March 1997



## Native Tongue



When 10 of contemporary fiction's most inwardly driven outsiders take the stage at The Kitchen on March 17, it will be more than just another night of literary readings. The event will mark a rare public outing of the wildly diverse yet oddly compatible array of writers that are published by the Semiotext(e) imprint, *Native Agents*—a celebration of the seven-year-old outré series' survival on the metapersonal margins of narrative form and function. "With *High Risk/Serpent's Tail* going under," *Native Agents* publisher, filmmaker and novelist Chris Kraus says, "I do feel that we are the last ones left still putting out these kinds of books."

The evening will be hosted by the irrepressible diva Penny Arcade, and will include readings by Homer Erotic's Barbara Barg; the linguistically lean and mean Poetry Project alum Eileen Myles; LSDeliriant Ann Rower; Lynne Tillman, that magical master of memory; femme fantastical Carmelita Tropicana; and punk provocateur Richard Hell, who will read from the work of this town's most-missed muse, Cookie Mueller.

Trying to figure out what Kraus means by "these kinds of books" should prove to be as elusive, politically challenging and insistently subjective as the works themselves. When asked to take a stab at it anyway, she offers, "First-person fiction, not introspective but more polemical, with 'I' as a form of public address." Adds Sylvère Lotringer, Semiotext(e) founder and irreverent bad boy of French philosophers, "Exo-biographical."

At *The Kitchen*, 512 W. 19th St., 8 p.m., \$10. ★

BY CARLO McCORMICK

Semiotext(e)'s *Native Agents* authors come out of hiding.

