

field mapping
selected essays
situating dharma in western
thought and practice

guy zimmerman

these essays articulate innovative modes of political activism with which to combat the cultural dispossessions and stratifications of our new Gilded Age.

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introduction

FIELD MAPPING IS A COLLECTION OF ESSAYS providing new perspectives on the worlds of art, politics, science, meditation practice and contemporary philosophy that are both highly personal and also theoretically sophisticated. From the death of a beloved family member to the memory of childhood trauma, Zimmerman uses clear language and an intimate style to collide decades of Buddhist practice against his engagements as a playwright, theatre director, critical theorist and scholar. First appearing as monthly posts on the influential arts and culture website *Times Quotidian*, these essays draw equally from the transformative philosophical frameworks of Nietzsche, Deleuze and Michel Foucault, and those of new Buddhist thinkers, such as David Loy and Stephen Batchelor. Zimmerman's writing points toward innovative modes of creative and political activism to combat the cultural dispossessions and stratifications of our new Gilded Age. *Field Mapping* provides the reader with pragmatic foundations from which to discover fresh liberative perspectives on our experience of daily life.

The essays in *Field Mapping* return again and again to the many intriguing resonances and correspondences between the ancient awareness practices of Vajrayana and Zen Buddhism and those of the contemporary Western science, such as complex systems and enactivism. Drawing connections between the “inner technologies” of Asian contemplative traditions and the more externalized, material technologies of the West, Zimmerman reinvigorates the possibilities of contemporary thought. In various Mahayana traditions we are said to be already enlightened, and our awareness is simply veiled or obscured; these essays make a similar case for Western culture—it is already a culture of dharma, with a few veils here and there obscuring this truth. Hence, things need only to be nudged a bit for that underlying alignment to shine through. Zimmerman's work provides welcome relief from a cultural landscape defined by over-specialization, nihilism and despair. This book will suggest ways the reader can follow, explore and examine these different streams of thinking to actualize new insights into their own lives.

Guy Zimmerman - An award-winning writer, director, and producer, Zimmerman completed a doctoral degree in Theater and Dramatic Arts at UC Irvine in 2015. Since 2001 he has served as Artistic Director of the Los Angeles based influential new theatre company Padua Playwrights, staging over forty productions of new plays, and moving several productions to stages in Atlanta, New York City, Edinburgh, Prague, Berlin, Beirut and Cluj, Romania. His articles about film, theater, art, science and politics have been published in *Theatre Journal*, *SubStance*, *Shakespeare Bulletin*, the critical anthology *Architecture in the Anthropocene* (Open Humanities, 2013), *TheatreForum*, *LA Weekly*, *LA Theater Magazine*, and the arts and culture website *Times Quotidian*. Recent theater credits include: his own play *The Black Glass*, seen at Push-Push Theater in Atlanta and at Balhaus OST Theater in Berlin, and *Fractalicious!* by Bryan Reynolds, developed by Transversal Theater Company, at the Interferences Festival in Cluj, Romania. In addition, Zimmerman has edited an eight-volume anthology series for Padua Press, distributed nationally by TCG.