

Created in January, 2020 Dana Smith's first book, for the new decade, titled *The Day Off*, is an homage to philosopher Avital Ronell. The book's story takes the form of a series of photo collages with a text/poem which grew from fragments of a lecture delivered by Avital that was posted on YouTube (www.youtube.com/watch?v=YHnAK3K7kzw) with the following description:

Avital Ronell discusses the concepts of forgiveness, drugs, ontic, ontological, friendship, blush, nausea, otherness, alterity, referring to Heidegger, Holderlin, Levinas, Susan Sontag, Lyotard, Kleist, Nietzsche, Wagner, Derrida, Lacoue-Labarthe, Alfred Hitchcock, Hegel. Free public open lecture for the students and faculty of the European Graduate School EGS Media and Communication Studies Department Program in 2012. EGS, Saas-Fee, Switzerland, Europe, Avital Ronell 2012.

As Avital says in the video:

"And so we may want to consider jamming on 'a day off' and what that means. Off the calendar, off the charts, what can happen? A lot of horror films, of course, locate their action on vacations, and so, something opens up. There's a kind of ontological rip, and I want to just plunge into the fissuring rip view of the day off, it's dangers, it's promise, it's enticements, and seductions. And what happens to time? Does time stall, does time actually shift registers and clocks?"

Dana's imagery is a tense juxtaposition of photos taken on vacation in Maui along with appropriated, and digitally decomposed images of oil spill disasters.



THE

DAY

OFF

THE DAY OFF

DANA SMITH

**SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
JANUARY 2020**

A person in a dark suit is shown from the chest up, looking down at a laptop screen. The background is a bright, out-of-focus sky. The word "TICK" is overlaid in large white letters at the bottom.

TICK

An airport check-in counter is shown with several staff members and passengers. A sign above the counter reads "64". A sign on the right says "Group 5" with an arrow pointing left. The word "TOCK" is overlaid in large white letters at the bottom.

TOCK



**OFF THE
CLOCK**



**I AM A PURE
SIGNIFIER**

LOST UNDER THE RADAR



**I TELL MYSELF
MY STORY**



**HAVE I BEEN
UNDERSTOOD?**



I GIVE MYSELF A GIFT



TREMOR OF GRATITUDE





**THANK YOU
MY UNINTELLIGIBLE FRIEND**

LOUD BLUSH





DISTANCE



DANCE

A photograph of a garden waterfall. The waterfall is constructed from large, dark, wet rocks and is surrounded by lush green plants and a wooden bridge in the background. The water is cascading over the rocks, creating a small pool at the bottom. The scene is set in a garden with a stone wall and a path in the background.

ASYMMETRICAL HANDSHAKE



**THE SUN
WILL NEVER STOP LOVING YOU**



**EACH
TIME ANEW**



THE DAY OFF

PHOTO COLLAGE AND POETRY
BY DANA SMITH

JANUARY 2020
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, USA

PUBLISHED BY DANA DANA DANA
AS A HANDMADE ARTIST BOOK
EDITION OF 20
30 PAGES AND ENDPAPERS
DRUMLEAF BINDING WITH HARD COVERS
DIGITALLY PRINTED ON
MOAB ENTRADA 190 GSM
WITH EPSON ARCHIVAL INKS

© 2020 Dana F. Smith All Rights Reserved