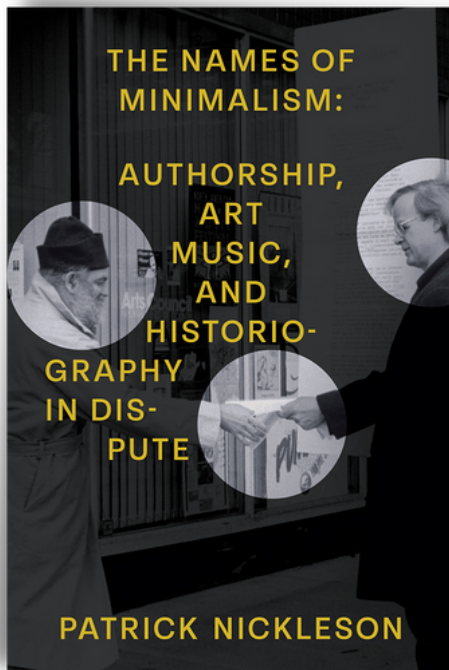




UNIVERSITY OF  
MICHIGAN PRESS



DOI: 10.3998/mpub.10207791

6 x 9 | 272 pages

Hardcover | 2023 | \$75.00 U.S.  
ISBN 978-0-472-13328-4

Paper | 2023 | \$29.95 U.S.  
ISBN 978-0-472-03909-8

Open Access  
ISBN 978-0-472-90300-9

# THE NAMES OF MINIMALISM

AUTHORSHIP, ART MUSIC, AND HISTORIOGRAPHY  
IN DISPUTE

Patrick Nickleson

Minimalism stands as the key representative of 1960s radicalism in art music histories—but always as a failed project. In *The Names of Minimalism*, Patrick Nickleson holds in tension collaborative composers in the period of their collaboration, as well as the musicological policing of authorship in the wake of their eventual disputes. Through examinations of the droning of the Theatre of Eternal Music, Reich's *Pendulum Music*, Glass's work for multiple organs, the austere performances of punk and no wave bands, and Rhys Chatham and Glenn Branca's works for massed electric guitars, Nickleson argues for authorship as always impure, buzzing, and indistinct.

Expanding the place of Jacques Rancière's philosophy within musicology, Nickleson draws attention to disciplinary practices of guarding compositional authority against artists who set out to undermine it. The book reimagines the canonic artists and works of minimalism as "(early) minimalism," to show that art music histories refuse to take seriously challenges to conventional authorship as a means of defending the very category "art music." Ultimately, Nickleson asks where we end up if we imagine the early minimalist project—artists forming bands to perform their own music, rejecting the score in favor of recording, making extensive use of magnetic tape as compositional and archival medium, hosting performances in lofts and art galleries rather than concert halls—not as a utopian moment within a 1960s counterculture doomed to fail, but as the beginning of a process with a long and influential afterlife.

Patrick Nickleson is Assistant Professor of Musicology at the University of Alberta.

**ORDER ONLINE AND SAVE 30%  
WITH DISCOUNT CODE UMS23!**

[press.umich.edu](https://press.umich.edu)