

SPECIAL FOCUS ON CONTEMPORARY

## Artist's Book Beat

by Nancy Princenthal

Readers are not victims but predators in Gareth James's *Kill the Idiot*, an irresistible comic-epic of art writing run amok, in which nearly every line of several reviews in the magazine *Frieze* is subjected to revision. It's an over-policed culture for sure, but James's *Polieze* (as per his revision) is also without doubt the puh-leeze any innocent writer has ever wanted to scream at the kind of hyper-vigilant editor who, as imagined here, could correct "ordinary" to "dairy" and then query, "do you mean dairy-farm workers, or 'dary,' as in risky erotic positions?" Needless to say (please!), the imprecation definitely works two ways, and a third, since there can hardly be a reader of art magazines who hasn't wanted, from time to time, to alter—or eliminate—a line or two (or even, James guesses, an author). Originally published as a project in the Danish laser-zine *Månedsskrift for Kunst*, James's bit of mischief, which now also exists as a staplebound, Xeroxed publication (available for free at Greene Naftali gallery at a recent show), contains as well some side-splitting pseudo-correspondence between writers, editors, and readers.