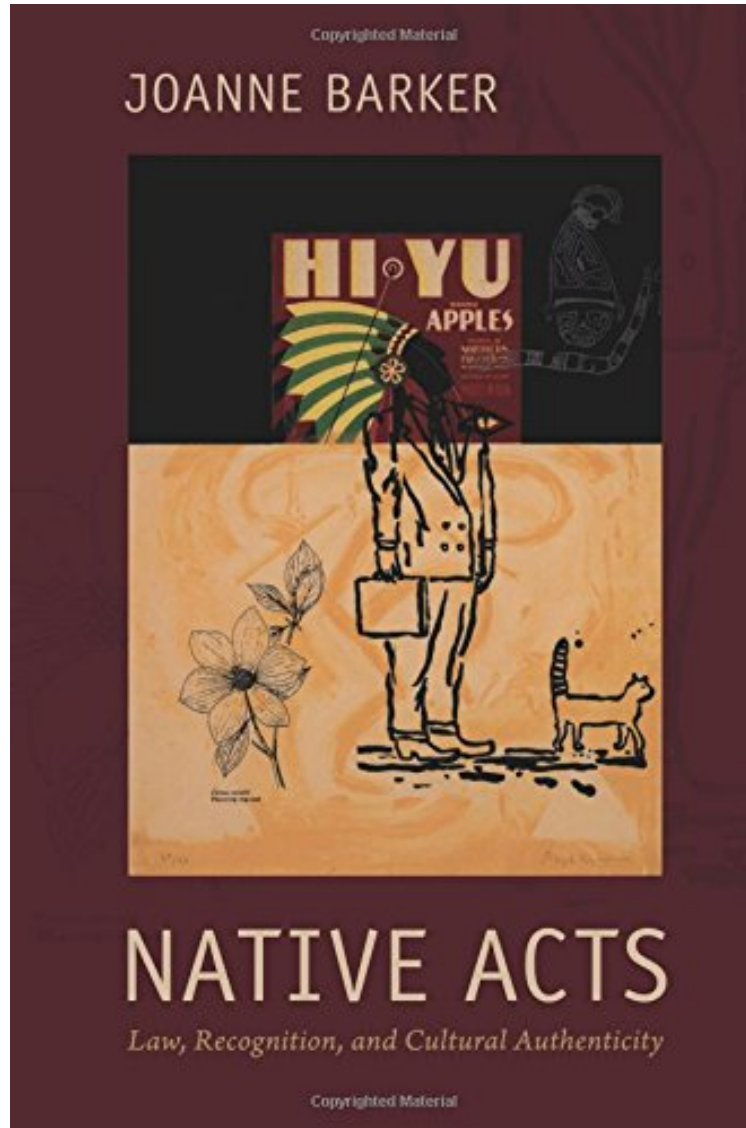


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Native Acts: Law, Recognition, and Cultural Authenticity

Joanne Barker

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Joanne Barker : Native Acts: Law, Recognition, and Cultural Authenticity before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Native Acts: Law, Recognition, and Cultural Authenticity:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy terrilyn woodfinthis book is in great shape.

In the United States, Native peoples must be able to demonstrably look and act like the Natives of U.S. national narrations in order to secure their legal rights and standing as Natives. How they choose to navigate these demands and

the implications of their choices for Native social formations are the focus of this powerful critique. Joanne Barker contends that the concepts and assumptions of cultural authenticity within Native communities potentially reproduce the very social inequalities and injustices of racism, ethnocentrism, sexism, homophobia, and fundamentalism that define U.S. nationalism and, by extension, Native oppression. She argues that until the hold of these ideologies is genuinely disrupted by Native peoples, the important projects for decolonization and self-determination defining Native movements and cultural revitalization efforts are impossible. These projects fail precisely by reinscribing notions of authenticity that are defined in U.S. nationalism to uphold relations of domination between the United States and Native peoples, as well as within Native social and interpersonal relations. *Native Acts* is a passionate call for Native peoples to decolonize their own concepts and projects of self-determination.

This is an important study that challenges prevailing ideas about native traditions and cultures and what is authentically native. It invokes a timely call to scholars, tribal leaders, and policy makers to rethink and examine critically how we use terminology and notions that may reinforce socialinjustice and inequalities inherited from the past. - Mark Edwin Miller, *Journal of American History*