

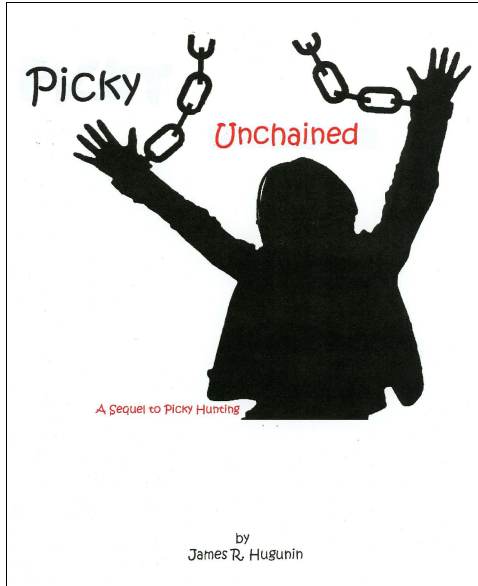
# "THE PICKY PAPERS"

## A Trilogy of Journals of the Plague Year

Picky *Hunting*: a Journal of the Plague Year, volume 1

Picky *Unchained*: a Journal of the Plague Year, volume 2

Picky's *Constant Conversation*: a Journal of the Plague Year, volume 3



Volume 2 from the trilogy *The Picky Papers: Journals of the Plague Year* (2022) by James Hugunin.

Picky Hunting, a retired Jewish psychoanalyst with a strong background in English Literature (B.A. and M.A. from the University of Chicago) and a recent widow, flees the Chicago area where she's lived all her life, to resettle in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She hopes to find solace in nature, study Indigenous culture, write, pursue photography, and may even develop a new love interest. Within six months of her arrival during the Trump administration, however, the march of His Evil Majesty COVID XIX through the world forces a lockdown in her adopted state.

Just beginning to make friends, join a NewComers Club, travel, discover superb cuisine, enjoy musical concerts, and respond to online dating postings, the forced isolation suddenly blunts her drive toward new experiences and companionship. Her loneliness is abated to some extent by her two Black & White scotch label-looking dogs. Soon, Picky sees an opportunity. Inspired by Daniel Defoe's *Journal of the Plague Year* (1722), Katherine Anne Porter's *Pale Horse, Pale Rider* (1939), and Albert Camus' *The Plague* (1947), Picky decides to hone her writing skills by daily tracking her life during the

terrible reigns of "COVID XIX" and President Donald "Immanent Baboon" Trump through three volumes (over 1,100 full color pages total, scripto-visual texts in pdf format on a flash-drive published by The Journal of Experimental Fiction, 2023) comprising *The Picky Papers: Journals of the Plague Year*. Throughout the three volumes, Picky is haunted by the death of her husband (suicide or murder?), by his memory and continuing influence. Can she move past her past and open herself to love again?

Links: [Picky Hunting](#) [Picky Unchained](#) [Picky's Constant Conversation](#)

"Picky's voice is intimate and idiosyncratic, the organizing principle diaristic, snapshots into 'the plague year' with the feel of anecdotes. Diverse and scattered remnants of her late academic husband's notebooks (the "Noonie-Verse") are constellated here as well. A struggle between Eros and Thanatos" (April Feurst).

### About the Author:



James **Hugunin** is emeritus faculty from The School of The Art Institute of Chicago where he taught art history and contemporary theory for over 35 years. In 1976, he founded the much-praised L. A. art journal *The Dumb Ox*, in 1982 he founded the art journal *U-Turn*. In 1983, he won the Reva and David Logan Award for Distinguished New Writing in Photography. Besides his extensive critical writings, since 2012 he's authored several books of award-winning experimental fiction. In 2016 he was elected a member of the Society of Midland Authors. He now resides in Santa Fe, New Mexico with his psychoanalyst wife, Marianne.