

# ART PEOPLE

**Berenice Abbott**, 93, pioneer of modern photography, died in Monson, Maine in early December.

**Brett Weston**, son of famed photographer Edward Weston and a great photographer in his own right, burned a lifetime's worth of negatives on his 80th birthday, save for 12 negatives produced since his youth. His reasoning that no one can print another artist's negatives was sadly received by critics, theoreticians and other photographers throughout the world.

**Herbert & Dorothy Vogel's** collection of 2,500 works of art has been donated and purchased by the National Gallery in Washington, DC. Herbert, a retired postal worker, used his salary to buy art, while his wife, Dorothy, who worked as a reference library, supported the couple.

**J. Carter Brown**, director of the National Gallery of Art in Washington for 22 years, has resigned but will remain until a successor is named by a search committee.

**Stephen Soreff** was in Prague last October, at the invitation of the Linhardt Foundation, in cooperation with the New York State Foundation for the Arts. Artists from all over Europe, along with 10 from the U.S., lived and worked in Czechoslovakia, creating site-specific art works in a large underground space called the "Stalin Space". Soreff's contribution was an interactive piece entitled "The Information Shower."

**Eleanor Tufts**, a professor of art history at SMU in Dallas, died in Dallas at the age of 64.

"**La Ciccolina**", the incumbent **Ilona Staller** in Italy's House of Parliament, is getting a divorce from famous American artist, **Jeff Koons**, after nine months of marriage. Staller represents the new Party of Love in Italy's government. Disputing arguments she was ineffective, La Ciccolina said she presented 23 important pieces of legislation that included an environmental tax, sex education and an anti-division measure. The party, however, lost miserably in the recent Italian elections, polling only 1% of the total vote.

**Koons** is reported to be leaving the Sonnabend Gallery, where it has been showing work for the past 6 years, since his last show in December, which included many works depicting Koons and his wife in various sexual positions and in various stages of undress. What's holding up the move is that Koons owes Sonnabend lots of money advanced to him for materials necessary to produce his work. Between \$3 and \$4 million over the years!

**John Collier, Jr.**, 78, a documentary photographer and teacher famous for his participation in the FSA photographic project during the Depression, died recently in Costa Rica. His book, "Visual Anthropology: Photography as a Research Method" (1967) is widely regarded as a classic treatment of the subject. A revised edition, prepared by the author and his son, Malcomb, was published in 1986 by the University of New Mexico Press.

**Maria-Helena Viera da Silva**, Portuguese-born painter, died in Paris on March 6 at the age of 83.

**Hellmut E. Lehmann-Haupt**, 88, a widely published bibliography expert and author, died recently. His publications range from studies of Gutenberg and early type design to an analysis of the comic strip. His association with H.P. Kraus, legendary rare book and manuscript dealer in New York City, began in 1950. He was responsible for authentication and catalog description of some of the most important manuscripts that Kraus sold to the Pierpont Morgan Library, among others.

**John E. Frohnmayer**, head of the National Endowment for the Arts, was forced out of his job in February, a casualty of the political wars. Brought on by accusations by presidential hopeful Patrick J. Buchanan, the resignation was slated for 1 May 1992.

**Kurt Forster**, a Swiss-born architectural historian, resigned in March after eight years as director of the Getty Center for the History of Art and the Humanities in Santa Monica, California. He is taking an appointment as chair in the history of art and architecture at the Federal Polytechnic Institute in Zurich. His resignation takes effect at the end of June.

**Ellen H. Johnson**, an influential art historian and curator who taught at Oberlin College in Ohio for 38 years, died of cancer at the age of 81 at her home in Oberlin, Ohio. Famed for her promotion of contemporary art, she gave the work of several prominent New York artists early exposure through her curatorship of the Allen Art Museum's well-known Young Americans series. She was the first to show the black-striped paintings that established Frank Stella's reputation, as well as early work by Claes Oldenburg, Larry Poons, Bruce Nauman, and many more.

**Aimery Somogy**, a publisher of art books, died on 29 December outside Paris at the age of 94. He founded his publishing house in 1937. Although he was famous for works about Hitler or Arthur Koestler's *Spartacus*, the recent publication include monographs of many famous artists, art dictionaries and encyclopedias.

**Lisa Fonssagrives-Penn**, 80, a leading fashion model in the 1940s and 50s. She posed for some of the most famous photographers of the age, including Horst P. Horst, George Hoyningen-Huene and Irving Penn, whom she married in 1950.

**Lucy M. Lewis**, an internationally recognized Native American potter, died at her home in Acoma Pueblo, New Mexico after a long illness. She was believed to be 95.

**James Brooks**, one of the last of the original abstract expressionist painters and known for improvisations in which he would turn his canvases to different positions as he

was painting, died at the age of 85 in March from Alzheimer's disease.

**David Stone Martin**, famed illustrator of more than 400 record album covers, as well as magazine covers, billboards, posters and advertisements for films, died at the age of 78.

**Minna Citron**, a painter and printmaker best known for her Social Realist images of New York City, died at the age of 95.

**Jose Guerrero**, 77, a Spanish-born painter who worked for many years in the United States, died in Barcelona in December.

**Herschel B. Chipp**, 78, Berkeley art historian and authority on Picasso, died in San Francisco on 8 February as a result of a stroke suffered a few weeks earlier.

**Vilem Flusser**, a distinguished writer and teacher of communications at Sao Paulo University and at the Ecole Nationale de la Photographie, Arles, France, died in November in an automobile accident near his native Prague. He was known as a computer philosopher in the 1980s, a true networker, always offering his readers to engage in dialogue and "link ideas" with him. He wrote frequently for *Artforum*, and oftentimes about books.

**Christo** received the 93rd annual National Arts Club Medal of Honor, citing Christo as "one of the great international sources."

**Dieter Roth** received the 1991 Caran d'Ache Fine Arts Prize, awarded annually to a Swiss artist. Roth, born in Hanover, has a Swiss father.

**Ida Panicelli**, editor of *Artforum* for the last four and a half years, has resigned from the magazine. She will remain as contributing editor, but will begin to do more writing. She is being replaced by **Jack Bankowsky**, the associate editor.

## AMERICAN ARTISTS: LAWSUIT VS. LES KRANTZ

This is information about those artists who paid for listings in the sourcebook, *American Reference*, published by Les Krantz, and who did not receive a refund when Krantz went out of business. More than 200 artists have joined in a suite filed by the Illinois attorney general. Having bilked thousands of artists out of millions of dollars over the past two years, the Illinois Attorney General's office has filed charges of consumer fraud against Les Krantz.

The publisher postponed his deposition in the Attorney General's office in Illinois until 17 January 1992, when he represented himself, having discharged his attorney. None of his documents were notarized, nor were his financial statements itemized and therefore do not substantiate his financial loss claim.

As of this date, Krantz has refused to return artists' transparencies to them, claiming he does not have sufficient funds. But it has been announced that the **second edition** of the volume, to which everyone lent transparencies and paid from their own pockets to be included, is not only in print, but also in circulation. All artists are requested to help the case by doing the following:

- 1) Send a copy of a letter which the coordinator of these activities has devised to Congressmen and Senators.
- 2) Call or write Inspector Andy Jalowiec, US Postal Service, Chicago, IL 60607-5401 or (312)765-4605. Those complaints to the Postal Service because Krantz used the mail to solicit artists. It looks like artists are cause for a real case of mail fraud against Krantz, which is a criminal offense.
- 3) Write to James Gucwa, Studio K, 9919 E. Apache Trail, Mesa, AZ 85207 or call (602)986-5195 for instructions how to help.

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