

NEWS & NOTES

A former salesman for pop artist Mark Kostabi was indicted on five counts of conspiracy and wire fraud in Brooklyn in July for his alleged role in a scheme to forge work from the painter's studio. Each count carries a penalty of up to five years in prison and up to \$250,000 fine. According to the indictment, Andrew Behrman worked out of Kostabi's New York Kostabiworld studio in 1990 and 1991. The studio hired artists to paint under the supervision of Kostabi, who then approved and signed certain works for public distribution. The indictment alleged that Behrman secretly arranged for one of the Kostabi-world artists to create painting in Kostabi's style without his knowledge, then forged Kostabi's signature and sold about 30 of them to Tokyo art galleries that were regular Kostabi customers. The galleries unwittingly sold the paintings to their customers.

FLUXUS NEWS

Printed Matter had an exhibition of Fluxus Publications, 1965-1992 including books, periodicals, and audio recordings created by Fluxus artists, including primary source materials as well as critical considerations of Fluxus concerns and goals throughout the summer. The store is open Tuesday through Saturday, at 77 Wooster Street in New York City.

Flux-Koncert, 12 May 1993, Orosz Kulturális Központ (Russian Cultural Center), Budapest. Works of George Brecht, La Monte Young, Tomas Schmit, as well as selection from the programs of the banned flux-concert which was to have been held on 12 May 1973. Tickets bought 20 years ago for the University Theatre were valid for this concert.

3 x 4: Gabor Altorjay, Miklos Erdelyi, Tamas St. Auby at Artpool, Budapest from 21 May - 25 August resurrecting props which now are objects used in the period 1965-70 by these colleagues who collaborated and executed happenings in Hungary with the "Fluxus-mentality"

Yoko Ono: Paintings and Drawings, July 17-30, 1961, edited by Jon Hendricks in 1993, has been published by Samuel Havadtoy, Galeria 56, Budapest, V. Falk Miksa Utca 7, Hungary. Included are photographs by George Maciunas.

Yoko Ono: Instructions for Paintings, May 24, 1962, edited by Jon Hendricks in 1993, has been published by Galeria 56 in Budapest. After her concert in November, Yoko Ono left for Japan in 1962 and wrote down the instructions for the paintings. This separate volume has the Japanese original text on the right hand side, and the English translation on the left side. For more information, write to Galeria 56, Fal Miksa u. 7, 1055 Budapest, Hungary or fax them at: 361-269-2529.

Family Album: Yoko Ono is an exhibition held at Stiftung Starke in Berlin from 15 June - 30 August 1993, in which catalog is the introduction by Ono, which reads "The history of the Family of Man is the history of violence. We are all victims of its cruelty" and in color reproductions of works page after page, the texts that accompany them jump from the 1960s to the present, from the quiet, grey, offwhite pieces with instructions to the viewer to the blood oozing out of a black box or over bronzed high heels, or coming out of two bullet holes in a bronze mirror or the blue denim shirt with blood spattered from the pocket over the heart. This is a poignant series of works of art, beautifully illustrated and published by Galeria 56, Budapest.

Sound Objects/Klangobjekte with Eric Andersen, Joe Jones, Chris Newman, Thomas Kapielski, Milan Knizak, Alison Knowles, Gerhard Ruhm, Takako Saito, Mieko Shiomi, and others. Galerie Hundertmark, Brüsseler Str. 29, Cologne, Germany, 2 July - 28 August 1993.

A Fluxus Event, Guitar Piece by Robin Page, was re-enacted at Club Dada in Dallas, Texas on 5 June, with the participation of John Held Jr. and Picasso Gaglione. This was a resurrection of a 30-year-old performance piece.

RUBBER STAMP NEWS

The California Rubber Stamp Arts & Crafts Festival will be held 25 & 26 September at the Del Mar Fairgrounds.

The Stamp Art Gallery in San Francisco at 466 Eighth Street was the site of an exhibition of Rubbert Stamp Art Prints by E.Z. Smith in June.

COPY ART SHOWS

Galerie Toner at 33 rue du FBG Poissonniere 75009 Paris is a gallery devoted to copyworks. From 9 June - 31 July, an exhibition called "The Last Supper" was dedicated to 15 artists who created variations on this theme for this specific exhibition. Among the artists are Dina Dar, Pati Hill, Suzanne Horvitz and an array of well known Europeans in the field. If you are in Paris, the Metro stop is Bonne Nouvelle.

ZINE SHOWS

The Subspace International Zine Show has published a 52-page exhibition catalog, packed full of over 200 zines and statements by many of the editors about zine publishing. Edited and published by Stephen Perkins of Plagiarist Press, the exhibition catalog documents the exhibition shown at Subspace in Iowa City, Iowa from 5 - 26 September 1992. Many of the covers of the zines are reproduced along with vital statistics about each publication. This isn't **Factsheet Five** of Gunderloy days, but it certainly is a vital chapter in the history of zines and their exhibitions. Order for \$6.00 (North America), \$8.00 (foreign by airmail), or \$7.00 (foreign, surface mail) all postage included from Plagiarist Press, 1816 E. College St., Iowa City, IA 52245 USA. Send cash, no checks.

CANADA DATELINE

Artists and academics were delighted to learn that the Canadian Senate defeated a bill to merge the Canada Council, which gives grants to artists, with the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, which gives grants to academics. Protests from the organizations themselves,

brought no only learning, but masonry and glass-blowing to the area.

WASHINGTON, DC DATELINE

The Library of Congress has recently acquired the Sturman Collection of Cartoon Art, 264 original drawings in ink, pencil and watercolor, purchased by George L. Sturman over a period of 30 years, beginning in the early 1960s. Combined with thousands of strips already housed in the Prints & Photographs Division of the Library, this Sturman Collection gives the Library probably the single most comprehensive and diverse collection of original American cartoon art anywhere. Winsor McCay, Al Capp, Rube Goldberg, Milton Caniff, Harold Gray and Burne Hogarth--KrazyKat to Tarzan are included.

CENSORSHIP & NEA

The Christian Action Network has reopened the art exhibit, "A Graphic Picture is Worth a Thousand Votes" in the office of Rep. Phil Crane (R.-Ill.), a member of the House Ways and Means Committee who planned the original show. The conservative policy group got shut down the last week of July when it tried to stage the same exhibit of "offensive" photos, funded by the NEA, at the Capitol. "It's pretty scary when taxpayer-funded art cannot be shown in the taxpayer-funded U.S. Capitol building," said the group's president, Martin Mawyer.

The NEA has had its budget restored to \$170.2 million for fiscal 1994, after a fight to cut \$4.3 million by the Senate Appropriations Committee. The new director of the NEA has been named by President Clinton, actress Jane Alexander, subject to Congress' approval.

In the hearings for the NEA's new director, the very day of the Health Care speech of President Clinton, Alexander stated: "The very essence of art, after all, is to hold the mirror up to nature. The arts reflect the diversity and variety of human experience. The artist often taps into the very issues of society that are most sensitive." By the time you get this, her appointment will have been confirmed.

The NEA has turned down many grants to small institutions showing cutting-edge contemporary art, such as

the Grey Art Gallery, New York, the Dia Center for the Arts, the Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago, the ICA at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, and the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford.

Jesse Helms tried to end taxpayer-supported grants to individual artists, in a September floor fight in the Senate over the NEA, but lost. He also tried to require that no less than 780% of NEA funds be sent to the states for redistribution by local officials, but that also lost. Everyone is waiting for Jane Alexander, the actress, to become the new chairman of the NEA.

Murals in Tennessee's Capitol, which have hung there since 1938, have aroused the state legislators who say that the paintings, which depict blacks working as slaves and also show scantily clad Indians, are racially insensitive and should be removed. The murals painted in the social realism style of the 1930s by Jirayr Zorthian, were defended by the Capitol curator, who said that the murals are part of history. "Blacks were brought here as slaves."

COPYRIGHT CASE FOR VOGUE INTERZONE

Conde Nast, the publisher of Vogue magazine, initiated a case against Christof Kohlhofer in both Germany and the U.S., feeling they have been harmed by the artist's copyright infringement, appropriation of trademark, and unfair competition, seeing an immediate withdrawal of *Vogue Interzone* from the market. Having tried to require Kohlhofer's gallery in Dusseldorf to cease and desist distribution of the artist's book, *Vogue Interzone*, Conde Nast lost their case in the German court, which denied that there were sufficient grounds to warrant an injunction against the gallerist. Conde Nast mistakenly feels that *Vogue Interzone*, reviewed in the last issue of *Umbrella*, is an attempt to publish a competing fashion monthly; instead, the bookwork is a social critique of mass media influences and the consumerist ideal, and the fact that *Vogue Interzone* is an artist's catalog seems to have escaped both sets of lawyers.

The case in the U.S. is yet to be decided, but doctrines of fair use, freedom of expression, and the existence of a mere 2,000 copies of the book-

work seem to be substantial points in the artist's favor.

POLLOCK-KRASNER GRANT

Noah Purifoy, an 83-year-old artist who in 1964 founded and directed the Watts Towers Art Center and served on the California Arts Council from 1976-1987, has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation. In 1989, Purifoy moved from Los Angeles to the desert community of Joshua Tree, where he is creating an environment of sculptures made of discarded objects.

KOMAR & MELAMID

Komar & Melamid, famed Russian Pop Art artists, decided to ask both Russian and Western artists to imagine new ways to use discarded monuments to communism. Joining Josif Bakshtain, the director of the Institute of Contemporary Art in Moscow, they published an appeal to artists in the May 1992 issue of *Artforum* magazine.

The result is a show of Conceptual art appearing for two weeks in the Central House of ARTists opposite Gorky Park in Moscow, and in New York, through 3 October, in the Courtyard Gallery of the World Financial Center. The show consists mostly of drawings and sketches, somewhat uneven in quality, but others have ideas which are amusing and powerful. Among the artists is Art Spiegelman, the cartoonist and author of the "Maus" books, who after seeing hundreds of slides of monuments thanks to Komar, he took the well-known "Worker and Peasant" monument, originally cast for the 1937 Paris World's Fair, and simply shrank the pedestal.

LOST & FOUND

An estimated \$10 million to \$20 million worth of prints and Old Master drawings stolen by a former Russian Red Army officer from the cellar of a German castle during World War II has been recovered from the officer's apartment in provincial Russia, where the works had been hidden since 1945. The discovery was the result of a two-year search conducted by Russian art historians, including the Moscow correspondent for *ARTnews* magazine. The 101 works by artists including Durer, Goya, Delacroix, Manet and

saying they would lose their autonomy, as well as their ability to do their jobs, were obviously supported.

NEW YORK DATELINE

The 42nd Street Art Project, along West 42nd Street between Seventh & Eighth Avenues, has been transformed into a public art exhibition featuring the work of more than 24 American artists, architects and designers. For instance, "Hey you," the purring voice that issues from a pair of giant red lips projected onto a screen inside the entrance to the old Rialto Theater in Times Square, is by Liz Diller and Ric Scofidio. Among the other artists are John Ahearn, Karen Finley and Jenny Holzer. The project has been coordinated by the 42nd Street Development Project of the New York State Urban Development Corp. and Creative Time, a 20-year-old non-profit contemporary arts organization. Included is graffiti art on two hop fronts by Lady Pink.

FLORENCE DATELINE

The Uffizi reopened on 20 June, after the horrific 27 May bombing of its bomb-damaged wing, which will take six months to restore adequately.

WARSAW DATELINE

There is a new Center for Contemporary Art at Ujazdowski Castle, where a permanent installation by John Blake has been erected in the forecourt, including a steel girder cub, in which center a young tree was planted in the spring.

AUSTRALIA DATELINE

The winner of the \$10,000 national Ruth Adenay Koori Award, Lin Onus, said Aboriginal art had struck a strong chord with the European art world, while Australian appreciation was still meagre. Lin, a 45 year old self-taught sculptor and painter, began his career in 1974 and has had 14 color exhibitions in Australia and in Europe, the US and Japan. He won the National Aboriginal Art Award in 1988.

An exhibition of dissident Chinese artists, called **Mao Goes Pop**, opened in June in Sydney and will travel to Melbourne, Berlin and the Venice Biennale, showing art created after the Tiananmen Square massacre. The most complete show is in Sydney with 100 works by 29 artists, 13 of whom have been chosen for the Venice Bien-

nale. Their work still cannot be seen in China. One of the exhibits is a pile of books sent to the Hong Kong part of this exhibition by Tang Song and Xiao Lu. They did not care how they were displayed. But it was the choice of books, 100 copies of *The Basic Law*, defining how Hong Kong will be governed by China for 50 years after its handover in 1997, and the timing as 1997 approached, that was all-important. The two were jailed for firing two shots into their own work at the China Art Gallery in Beijing, just months before the massacre in Tiananmen Square. Their work in **Mao Goes Pop** involves more than a million pink-headed matches stuck into six panels, called **The Burning Flag**, showing something about the need for hot, red passions to be expressed by artists, no matter what country they are in, as well as an illustration of Red Flags poised to blow up in the face of Chinese communism.

CHINA DATELINE

China ended more than 40 years of condemnation of commercial art, announcing China Art Expo '93. The fair, Asia's biggest art exhibition, is to be held Nov. 16 - 25 in Guangzhou. It will accompany a cut in subsidies for art, which was previously required to serve political ends.

UKRAINE DATELINE

Nikolai Syadrity is a master in microminiature art, an arcane and obsessive Slavic specialty little seen in the Western world. He has done a chess set balanced on the head of a pin, an electric motor smaller than the belly of an ant, a functioning clock the size of a dragonfly's head. He says, "Micro-art is the art of the future. I am not bragging, but I am an artist of the 21st century. You know, Van Gogh could never do anything with fine strokes, only bold strokes."

There are only five practitioners of the micro-miniature specialty in the entire former Soviet Union. About 1/3 of his collection is on permanent display in Kiev, housed in a small museum on the grounds of an 11th century Russian Orthodox monastery. There is an ink portrait of Ernest Hemingway etched onto a pear seed, a 600-note musical score of a 19th century polonaise painted on a chrysanthemum leaf the size of a grain of rice, and probably the

world's smallest book: a 12-page collection of poetry smaller than one square millimeter. In 1960 he created a life-size, pen-and-ink portrait of Vladimir Lenin in which the Bolshevik leader's face is formed from hundreds of thousands of microscopic letters and words that together make up the codex of everything Lenin wrote. As a result, "I realized what a terrible man he really was. he was worth than Hitler. In the 50th volume of his writings, for example there is a whole section of how to create a famine." (Chicago Tribune, 8/1/93)

LOS ANGELES DATELINE

Artists James Turrell and Robert Irwin have been talking to architect Richard Meier about creating artworks for the central garden of the Getty Center, which is targeted for completion in 1996. It will not be a traditional garden, but one which will aesthetically challenge and reward the visitors.

SAN DIEGO DATELINE

Three artists armed with a \$5,000 grant funded in part by the NEA performed a public work of art in August by handing out \$10 bills (autographed by the three artists David Avalos, Louis Hock and Elizabeth Sisco) to immigrant workers gathered at a day-laborer site. The three conceptual artists who specialize in making defiant cultural statements, thus celebrate the unsung economic contributions of illegal immigrants. The migrant workers immediately used the money to buy food, etc., showing how they contribute to the economy.

Yet this act alone has incensed a congressman who has asked the NEA to prohibit further handouts and to consider demanding the money back. The public art piece was commissioned by the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego and the Centro Cultural de La Raza, from a \$250,000 grant awarded in 1989 by the NEA.

SUNDERLAND, ENGLAND DATELINE

Sculptor Colin Wilbourn created a sculpture, **Pathways to Knowledge**, 20-tons of stone set between a 7th c. church and the site of the new Sunderland University campus. The great carved pile of books celebrates the life of Benedict Biscop, who founded St. Peter's Church in 674 A.D. and

Toulouse-Lautrec were handed over to German officials.

The Government of Spain has agreed to purchase about 775 artworks from Baron Thyssen-Bornemisza for \$350 million after years of courting. A music for the Thyssen collection opened in Madrid last October, about 100 yards from the Prado. The deal provided the Spanish government with a 9-year lease on the collection, at about \$6 million a year, and an option to buy the artworks.

Russia's museum treasures, as well as their libraries and archives housed in stately buildings along the Neva River, are in dire need of preservation, for conditions at these institutions are dire, threatening the czars' art collection housed at the Hermitage, Napoleon's letters stored at Pushkin House, and pre-revolutionary paper trail warehoused at the Russian State Historical Archives, according to the Getty Conservation Institute, which has given \$123,000 in seed money to help build a center in ST. Petersburg for the conservation of art, books and documents.

The "Invention Factory", the laboratory where Thomas Edison invented even the light bulb, is disintegrating without an air conditioner, a fire prevention system, preservative chemicals to eras years of degradation, and a computer. The 390,000 papers and objects are uncataloged and deteriorating, having remained as they were stowed 62 years ago, when Thomas Alva Edison died and the laboratory shut its doors in West Orange, New Jersey. Needed: \$30 million and then everything could be put in order by 2003, according to the curators.

Restorers at a castle in Opcno near Prague who are working on a copy of "The 12-year-old Christ in the Church" by Bosch, the 15th-century Dutch artist, believe they have found the original underneath it.

The treasures of King Priam of Troy, who ruled around 1,200 B.C. during the Trojan War, are in Moscow and will be on exhibit soon in Moscow. One of World War II's great mysteries, the whereabouts of these golden treasures from the ruins of Troy, including gold

chains, elaborate golden pitchers and thousands of ancient gold coins, discovered in 1873 by Schliemann, disappeared and no one knew where until now. Germany claims ownership, while Turkey is also pursuing legal means to get the treasure back. Athens has been promised that they will exhibit the materials first, but no one knows as yet.

Almost lost: The Berlin Wall remains, despite erosion and souvenir hunters. Near Potsdamer Platz, there is a 600-foot piece of wall under guard. A small band of historians and artists, city and tourism officials are working to save the wall. Besides souvenir hunters and a sale of 70 more attractively painted pieces sold at auction in Monte Carlo, an estimated 160,000 tons of wall were pulverized to rebuilt streets. Artists are in fact trying to save the East Side Gallery, nearly a mile-long stretch of wall painted in 1990 by 100 artists who had been invited to celebrate the opening of the wall. This largest intact stretch of wall in Berlin is threatened by Berlin's booming real estate market.

Found: Part of a private collection of antiques worth millions of dollars taken from Kuwait by the Iraqis during their seven-month occupation of the emirate has turned up at Sotheby's in London. The Homaizi collection, containing manuscripts, carpets, metal work and pottery, one of the world's biggest private collections of Islamic art, remained a mystery until a few months ago. Seems a Jordanian was the intermediary, via Amman.

Found: Vermeer's "Lady Writing a Letter with her Maid", and Goya's "Portrait of Dona Antonia Zarate" were recovered by the police in Belgium in September, 7 years after they were stolen from a private collection in Ireland.

NEW PERIODICALS

The Small Magazine Review published by Dustbooks which publishes **Small Press Review** is just what its title signifies, a review of new and more established small magazines. The tendency is still toward "small press" periodicals--but number three seems to feature poet Karl Kempton's **Kaldron**, which was consistently reviews in this newsletter for many

years. The most interesting column is by Bob Grumman who calls his monthly report, "Experioddica", which deals with micro-zine publishing and the odd periodical. Libraries should look into this, and individuals who see the periodical as a small press extension should order from P.O. Box 100, Paradise, CA 95967 for \$20 a year for 12 issues.

N is for Newsletter, a newsletter about alphabets, alphabet books, and alphabet memorabilia for alphabet lovers, entails a broad approach to the alphabet, not only for collectors of alphabet books, but for those who love letters. Issue #2 contains an article on the Heathrow Airport Alphabets (world's largest?) as well a miniature golf alphabets, as well as Gorey, books reviewed, with coming articles on small press alphabets, etc. For more information, write to **N is for Newsletter**, P.O. Box 465, Chappaqua, NY 10514. \$10.00 for six issues.

