

MAIL ART

In Memory of Ray Johnson was held at the Begijnhof Centrum voor Kunsten, Hasselt, Belgium, with the participation of artists from all over the world via the Internet, Fax and the International Mail Service, all curated and collected by Guy Bleus from 22 February - 22 March 1995.

The exhibition, **Ray Johnson: A Memorial Exhibition** at the Richard L. Feigen & Company, 49 E. 68th St., Manhattan through 16 June was a great tribute to the father of mail art, the extraordinary collagist, and first-class correspondent. With more than 120 collages and three vitrines full of smaller collages, handmade books and mail art, the first work was an abstract painting from around 1949. It shows Joseph Albers' influence where Johnson studied at Black Mountain College in North Carolina. In the 50s, he did rose-tinted collages of Elvis Presley, presaging Pop Art, and on and on. After his friend, Andy Warhol, was shot, Ray decided to leave Manhattan

He chose his icons such as Duchamp, Shelley Duvall, paying homage to other artists as well such as Chuck Close, Mondrian, and so many more. A small catalog is available from the Gallery with an homage from Richard Feigen, a remembrance by Frances Beatty and a checklist of the 125 works. The gallery has asked anyone who has mail art from Ray to send one Xerox copy of your favorite piece to the gallery for inclusion in the archive and potential traveling show. Write to Richard L. Feigen, 49 E. 68th St., New York, NY 10021.

Gianni Broi organized on 14 July in Paris, at the cemetery of Pere Lachaise, the Commemoration of Raymond Roussel's death with the meeting of **Roussel and Ray Johnson**. Jeannette Latour Delombre gave everyone a talisman and the enigmatic plan of the way that led to Roussel's tomb, where the meeting took place.

Steven Leiber's last catalog, **Ray Johnson, North American Networkers and Dadazines**, is a looseleaf portfolio of Xeroxed examples of many artists' creativity, including Ray Johnson, 26 dadazines from File to Vile, a questionnaire from the Archives of the New York School of Correspondence Art about your contact with Ray Johnson in any way. To answer the questionnaire, contact Steven Leiber, 37 Toledo Way, San Francisco, CA 94123.

Lightworks, edited by Charlton Burch, will dedicate an issue in the fall to Ray Johnson, with contributions from Clive Phillpot, Dick Higgins, Norman Solomon,

Crackerjack Kid, Matthew Rose, as well as Coco Gordon, Geoff Hendricks, Henry Martin and Suzi Gablik, among others. Write to P.O. Box 1202, Birmingham, MI 48012-1202 for inclusion if you have Ray Johnson anecdotes or want the issue when it is published.

An article about **Alighiero Boetti's Dossier Postale**, a kind of mail art piece centered on self-reference rather than outreach is discussed by Barry Schwabsky in the July-August issue of *Print Collectors Newsletter*.

The Musée de la Poste, 34 Blvd. de Vaugirard, 75015 Paris, France, is holding an exhibition, *L'Art du Tampon*, 4 May - 27 August 1995. The exhibition, devoted to the art of rubber stamps, as used by visual artists. The history of rubber stamps goes back to 1839 when Charles Goodyear discovered, almost by accident, the stabilized formula of rubber. First used administratively, to repeat names, addresses and messages, no artists were involved until the 20th century. From 1913 onwards, more than 100 artists are shown to use rubber stamps with great persistence and aesthetics. Included are Fluxus, Mail Art, as well as Kurt Schwitters, Malevich, Leger, Arman, Andy Warhol, Ray Johnson, Daniel Spoerri, Tony Cragg, Yoko Ono, Ben Vautier, Joseph Beuys, Robert Filliou, Louise Cane, Claude Viallat, On Kawara, Gilbert & George, Zona, Fluxus, ecart, stempelplaats, Art Pool, and many more. A catalog is available of about 112 pages, with a price of 145 FF.

On 20 May 1995, a group of mail artists and poets met at A (Arleen Schloss's) space in New York City to pay **homage to Ray Johnson**. Many works of art, collages, letters, books, videos, stamps and more were exhibited, as well as live performances by Valery Oistenau, E.F. Higgins III, Sur Rodney Sur, Buster Cleveland, Ira Cohen and Steve Calachinsky, among others. On-line connection with Crackerjack Kid was made, thanks to Arleen Schloss with a little bit of help from **Umbrella**. The videotape was to be sent to Artpool for inclusion in their **Homage to Ray Johnson**, father of Mail Art, who died on 13 January 1995.

Umbrella was fortunate to meet B. Rugged on the way to A Space and found out she had taken notes during the Memorial Service for Ray at the Friends' Meeting House and gave me a copy! I was elated, for it gave a real feeling for the service starting with Dick Higgins performing John Cage's silent music piece, 4'33". Ed Plunkeet spoke movingly. David Bourdon said he has a warehouse of Ray Johnsonia, including a list of his favorite (dead) people. Coco Gordon and

Geoff Hendricks moved rain sticks. Geoff did George Brecht's piano piece: holding a vase of flowers he walks to the piano with arms out front and places the vase on the piano.

Valery Oisteanu said "Mail Artists never die, they return to sender." Dick Higgins alluded to Ray's silence. Billy Name, Madeline Gins, Diane Spodarek, Mark Bloch, Buster Cleveland, E.F. Higgins III, Sur Rodney Sur, were among 30 people who spoke. It was all Nothing.

Dreamtime Talkingmail published by xexoial endarchy, rt. 1, box 131, LaFarge, WI 54639) is a densely printed informational zine, including reviews of other zines and mail art texts. (\$25.00 for 3 issues of newsletter) and you won't be sorry!

John Held Jr. exhibited 20 new works at San Francisco's Stamp Art Gallery during the month of June, called *Netland Impressions*.

The Artistamp Collection, curated by Guy Bleus of the Administration Centre, was an exhibition at the Centrum voor Kunsten van Het Begijnhof in Hasselt, Belgium, from 13 May to 25 June.

Paolo Barrile has published *earth age, plastic age* (Milano, Edizioni Armadio Officina, 1994) documenting 13 years of activity in conceptual art, his earth works within a global framework, called "amplified art". Barrile's art is an activist art who wants to instill within us the sense of the earth in relation to culture. The volume contains documentation of all his projects from 1981 on, including essays by Pierre Restany, Robert C. Morgan, Daniela Bellotti, and Paolo Barrile. Available for 24,000 L. from Paolo Barrile, via G. Milani 9, 20133 Milano, Italy. An exhibition of Amplified Art was held in Lithuania from December 1994 - February 1995.

Anna Banana published an article on "The United States of Mind: The Artistamp Movement" in the *American Institute of Graphic Arts Journal*, vol. 12, no. 4 (Feb/March 1995) which is available from Banana Productions, P.O. Box 2480, Sechelt, BC, Canada V0N 3A0 or write to the AIGA, 164 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10010. Her latest issue of ArtistampNews (June 1995) is packed full of info on the field.

The Order of Things (an International Fax Project), curated by Francesca Vivenza and W. Mark Sutherland, is the documentation of a 1993 exhibition at the Workscene Gallery, Toronto, Canada. Available for

\$15.00 from Printed Matter. Includes work of Jurgen Olbrich, Betty Danon, Enzo Minarelli, Mirella Bentivoglio, Harry Polkinhorn, Morgan O'Hara, John Bennett, Ruggero Maggi, and more.

Shimamoto Shozo, head of AU and a founding member of the Gutai movement in Japan, survived in the earthquake in Kobe in January 1995, but the archives seems to have been devastated, the kitchen a holy mess, the Mail Art Museum completely disrupted and the AU library turned upside down. He had just undergone four arterial bypasses, and he was recuperating at home when the earthquake struck on 17 January. His unstable heartbeat was amplified during each aftershock. But your faxes and letters helped him overcome this disaster. Mayumi Handa's house was destroyed, and her father died in the earthquake, yet AU continues to give Shozo comfort

Five/Cinq Unlimited International Directory of Artistamp Creators, 2d ed., by Jas. W. Felter (\$50 US) shows the increased in artistamp activity since Felter's first edition in 1990. Each entry includes addresses of individual artists, their responses to his survey, collections in which their work is represented, and exhibitions in which they have participated. The directory, in addition, lists producers, four pages of exhibitions from 1974 to the present, 2 ½ pages of collections, artist's posts and AKA's, and artist organizations and groups involved in artistamp making.

Indexes list 1300 artists and producers by country in an 8 ½ x 11" format, leatherbound, with one of Felter's Mraur stamps tipped in, and cancelled with his rubber stamp. A reference tool for contemporary art collectors, curators, philatelists, art libraries and mail artists.

Order with check or money order for \$50 US from: Five/Cinq Unlimited, 2707 Rosebery Ave., West Vancouver, BC, Canada V7V 3A3. Mailing labels are also available.

Creatività Alternativa: Valori Umani or Free Dogs in the Galaxy is a book that documents an International Conference at Bagno a Ripoli, 8 May 1994, edited by Gianni Broi, is by far the cutting edge of Mail and Correspondence Art, involving itself even in cyberspace. Participants are from Italy, Germany, US, Uruguay, Holland, Poland, Great Britain, France and all the articles are translated into English and Italian. From David Cole to Vittore Baroni, there is something for everyone here, and it is important. This is a softbound volume of 296 pages, printed and bound. For copies and price, contact Gianni Broi, c.p. 684, I-50123, Florence, Italy.

Buster Cleveland's **Art For Um** is founded on the idea that a picture is worth a thousand words. A mail art magazine in the form of a very special work of art in postcard format, **Art For Um** is collected by the Getty Museum, the Walker Art Center, MOMA, and numerous interesting collectors. Each month, you'll receive a great front cover and a great back cover with nothing in between. 1 year, 10 issues, \$100 from 23-03 44th Dr., Long Island City, NY 11101. Please make checks payable to Buster Cleveland.

Zine Reviews

Lime Green News, a zine from Carolyn Substitute, includes documentation about Blender Art, sells T-shirts, postcards and anything else the readers advertise and includes lots of limelights in the mail art world. For sample, send \$2.00 to Carolyn Substitute, 125 Brover Dr., Florissant, MO 63031. Offset from a mixture of techniques.

Andy Nukes likes postcards, a collector and writes a bimonthly column for *Postcard Collector*, so if you produce artist postcards, be sure to send him some at 2519 McMullen-Booth Rd., Suite 510-170, Clearwater, FL 34621. He also produces zines such as:

My Summer Vacation, No. 2 (1994) is a collection of various drawings in a very small format zine.

King of Palms (1995) is combination history, social commentary, dinosaurs, recipes and lots more. Palm-size.

Mail Art Deadlines

Space is the Place: Science & Technology. Exhibition at Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center Gallery at Northern Virginia Community College. Any medium, any size. No fees, no jury, no returns. Documentation to all. Exhibition to be 3 December 1995 - 31 January 1996. Deadline: 15 November 1995. Send to Space & Tech Mail Art CT 220 Art (Comm-Hum), 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA 22003-3796.

3 Little Pigs and the Wolf. No deadline. Answer to all. Exhibitions. Art work to be only: 9 x 14 or A4 or very big poster. Story in any languages, old or new. Send to Baudhuin Simon Hog Fluxus, 71 rue d'Hoffschmidt, B 6720 Habay, Belgium.

Post Masters: Mail Art/Art Masterpieces. Contribute postcards based on works from art history for November gallery exhibition. All work exhibited; only one side will be displayed. No returns, documentation to all. Send to Post Masters, College of Associated Arts, 344 Sununit Ave., St. Paul, MN 55102. Deadline: 15 October 1995.

Corrugated Paper Mail Art Project. Please send your work on corrugated paper. Any kind is o.k. Send to Reika Yamamoto, 4-7-7 Eirakuso, Toyonaka-City, Osaka 560, Japan.

Hiroshima/Nagasaki Mail Art Show at Berkeley Public Library, August 1995, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the bombing. No returns, any medium, documentation to all. Maximum size: 5 x 8". Deadline: 31 July 1995. Send to Hiroshima/Nagasaki Mail Art Show, Berkeley Public Library, Art & Music, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley, CA 94704. (510)649-3928.

Philadelphia Mail Art Show. Send mail art, books, sculpture, artistamps for inclusion in exhibit. No rejections, all work displayed, documentation to all. Send to Jaime Weitzman, P.O. Box 511, Ardmore, PA 19003. Deadline: 31 October 1995.

Art of Shoes. No deadline. Please send an idea of Shoes which you imagine, you are wearing now, or of your favorite illustration. Photograph, Collage, and any kind is o.k. Send to Yayoi Yoshitome, 1-1-10 koshienguchi, nishinomiya 663, Japan.

Fashion. Participants are asked to produce works that reflect their own concept of fashion. The works are to be used as part of a sculpture to be exhibited at Southern Cross University, Lismore, Australia. Any medium, any size, all works will be displayed in a handmade sculptured book as the centerpiece of the work. Documentation to all participants at the conclusion of the exhibition. The sculpture will act as a stage for the thoughts and beliefs of all participants. Send to Sam Andrews, P.O. Box 4046, Goonellabah NSW 2840, Australia. Deadline: 1 September 1995.

Mail Art Exposed. A new publication, *Cherry Screed*, is requesting contributions of any artistic nature--articles, graphics, poetry, artworks, cartoons, etc. Theme wanted is Interpretation of the world of magazines and pop culture, relating to Mail Art. Issue I is expected to be issued end of 1995-early 1996. Documentation to all participants plus a free copy once it is printed. If you send an IBM or Mac floppy containing artworks, you will be sent by return mail a disk with compatible format pictures sent by other participants. No viruses please! Send to Cherry Screed, P.O. Box 4046, Goonellabah, NSW 2480, Australia. Deadline: 1 October 1995.

Abuse (Child and/or Spouse, Partner) No fee, no jury, no returns. Periodic documentation. Ongoing. Send your 4 x 5" art to; Stamp Out Abuse, arto posto, 199 14th St. NE, #2505, Atlanta, GA 30309-3691 USA

Possession in Mail Art, end of the voyage, end of the work? ...& all other meanings, opinions, Typescripts only. Book to participants. Deadline: 31 October 1995 to Altor, Via Saluzzo 20, 10125 Torino, Italy.

Home. Non-juried Electronic/Mail Art Show. Deadline: 1 September 1995. Mail (include SASE for returns) or fax entries to: David Kamm, Gallery Coordinator, Luther College, Decorah, IA 52101. Fax: (319)387-1766.

Science & Technology. Any medium, any size. No returns, but documentation of exhibition will be sent to participants. Deadline: 15 November. To be held 3 December 1995 - 31 January 1996 at Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center. Mail to: Space & Tech Mail Art CT 220 Art (Comm Hum), 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA 22003-2796.

Sky Art. Artist's Kites. Design a kite 18 x 18" square in the style of a named artist. Use lightweight materials so the kite can fly. Kite catalog to all participants. Deadline: December 1995. Send to Pat Collins, 128 Kingston Rd., Teddington, Middlesex, England.

Assembling Magazines. Call for Work for an exhibition investigating the concepts & strategies involved in the publication of these magazines. Submissions of assembling magazines & editors' statements about their assembling projects, also seeking articles/texts about assembling for possible inclusion in catalog.

No fees, no jury, catalog to all participants. Exhibit to take place at Subspace in Iowa City during 1996. Deadline: 1 March 1996. Send to Stephen Perkins/Subspace, 1816 E. College St., Iowa city, IA 52245 USA.

Bacchus, Food & Wine: International Mail Art Exhibition at the St. Hubertus Estate Winery, 5225 Lakeshore Rd., Kelowna, V1Y 7R3, BC, Canada, 22 September - 1 October 1995.

Forget about Heidelberg - Remember Eislingen. The Kunstverein Eislingen celebrates its 10th anniversary with an exhibition of artists' mail including Joseph Beuys. All work exhibited. Documentation to all. Send to Kunstverein Eislingen, c/o Peter Ritz, Heckenweg 2, D-73054 Eislingen, Germany. Deadline: 1 September 1995.

United Nations: One World. 50th Anniversary of the United Nations exhibition. All works received will be exhibited. No returns, documentation to all, any size, any medium. Send to: United Nations/One World Postal Art Exhibition, c/o Postal Art Network, P.O. Box 1500, New York, NY 10009. Deadline: 9 October 1995.

Post Masters: Mail Art/Art Masterpieces. Contribute postcards based on works from art history for November gallery exhibition. All work exhibited, one side displayed. No returns, documentation to all. Send to: Post Masters, College of Associated Arts, 344 Sunnuit Ave., St. Paul, MN 55102. Deadline: 15 October 1995.

Imagine. A mail art celebration of the life, music and wisdom of John Lennon. All media welcome, size free, no judges, no juries. Documentation to all. Send to Imagine, c/o Cynthia Sillitoe, 945 W. Broadway #1097, Mesa, AZ 85210 USA. (15th anniversary of his assassination.)

Female Art/Queen of hearts, clubs, spades or diamonds (your choice). Send a portrait of yourself, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, friend, as the Queen of one suite of playing cards. Exhibition in 1996, documentation to all, any medium, A4 size. Deadline: 31 December 1995. Personal invite sent to 52 female artists. Send yours to Jenny de Groot, Rudolfstraat 60, 7553 WK Hengelo, Holland.

Bambu #14, the last issue. Send 100 originals, copies or postcards on the theme "The Last Issue: Endings, Omega. Max. size 12 x 20 cm. 1 copy of completed assembly to each participant. Deadline: 1 January 1996 or whenever the 75 spaces are filled, whichever occurs first. Any overflow will appear in a future issue of Tenseten-doned. Send to M.B. Corbett, P.O. box 155, Preston Park, PA 18455 USA.

International Mona Lisa Mail art Show. Exhibition 24 November - 3 December 1995. No returns. Best of show artist will participate in four-person winners' show in 1996. Very specific entry dates and guidelines. Send SASE to: Mona Lisa, CORE New Art Space, 1412 Wazee St., Denver, CO 80202. Deadline: 15 November 1995.

Homage to Joseph Beuys 1986 - 1996, decade of dead. Any medium, postcard size. Documentation to all, no returns. Send works to Umberto Principi, P.O. Box 211, 63017 Porto San Giorgio, Italy or uprincipi@agora.stm.it Deadline: 15 December 1995.

Help Wanted: Magwar Primary school is in need of all school materials: every book in English, every pen and paper you can spare is highly appreciated. They have no electricity, and the postbox is at the nearest post office an hour away. Peter & Angel Netmail did a rubber stamp carving workshop, and introduced them to the mail art network as a window to the world. Send what you can to Magwar Primary School, P. O. Box 20, PauAkuche, via Kisumi, Kenya.

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NEWS & NOTES

Wine & Art Don't Mix in Colorado

The State Liquor Enforcement Division in Colorado said recently it is notifying art galleries from Aspen to Cherry Creek that serving wine and other alcoholic beverages at public showings is illegal. Galleries are open to the public, and therefore must have a license to sell alcoholic beverages. Alcohol can be served when the galleries hold private, invitation-only showings. The law has been on the books for years, but only now enforced. Someone snitched and a state inspector came out. Since the Liquor division has a shortage of retail investigators, they have been lax and overlooked any of this before.

Wild Art Shows

Boise State University and St. Edward's University in Austin, TX cohosted a beautiful and curious exhibition at the Hemingway Western Studies Center at BSU, Boise, Idaho from June - August 1995.

Sack Art includes selections from 30 World War I oil paintings done by Belgian artists who, deprived of canvas, made use of linen sacks for their art. These sacks originally contained American flour sent as war aid. Paintings include landscapes, portraits, and still lifes.

The Belgian works are joined by 15 beautiful Idaho burlap potato sacks, including Route 26, Viking, Minidoka Princess, and Yellow Rose brands. Idaho sack art is also represented by Marilyn Monroe, shown wearing a Twin Falls, Idaho fresh shipper's potato sack fashioned into a form-fitting swimsuit for a publicity photograph early in the movie star's career.

The Hemingway Center Galleries will be open daily and weekends and admission will be free.

Tablecloth Games (Jeux de Nappes) which appeared at the Pavillon des Arts in the Paris district of Les Halles included 179 restaurant drawings by Picasso, Max Ernst, Alexander Calder, Jean Cocteau, Paul Valery, Paul Eluard and Balthus, among many more, who doodled and "fooled around" the restaurant tables between 1944

and 1952. Many used the stains of spilled wine or coffee translating them into instant images, often of exotic-looking animals, with color and contrast added by anything in reach--dampened cigarette ash and coffee beans, dabs of mustard, lipstick, ink and even tomato ketchup. Most of these were done at a little Left Bank bistro called Le Catalan, where Georges Hugnet, painter, poet, bookbinder and the first person to translate Gertrude Stein into French, ate daily and it was around his table that many of the artistic lights of the period would gather. The exhibition closed on 30 April.

Subway Art: Putting a new twist on the adage that one man's task is another man's treasure, Christian Boltanski, the french artist, turned Grand Central subway terminal into a gallery by putting more than 5,000 objects from its lost and found department on display. Along with the ubiquitous raincoats and briefcases left behind on the commuter trains, there was a pornographic video, musical keyboard, football helmet, ready-to-paint clay figurines, bicycle, coffee grinder, Swahili dictionary, scuba mask and Bibles. The items, on exhibit, were set on shelves and surrounded by an eight-foot chain link fence. After one month on display, they were donated to charity. Boltanski said the items "evoke the absence of those who have lost them, of those who have lost themselves."

The Intermedia Society, the first "artist-run center" in Canada, was celebrated by Art Metropole in Toronto from 25 March - 25 April 1995. The aim was to honor the roots of the Canada artist-run system, to remember the original intentions and methods of working, and to reflect on the current position of stasis. Most of the objects in the show were a byproduct of performances and process and were not valued at the time: from posters and newsletters to instructions for conceptual works. Founders were Jack Sahdbolt, Iain Baxter of the N.E. Thing Company and architect Arthur Erickson. Other artists were Bill Bissett, Don Druick, Glenn Lewis, Michael Morris, David

Rimmer, etc. The exhibition was curated by AA Bronson, one of the three artists of General Idea and a founding member of Art Metropole.

Poésie Sonnée, a Sound Poetry exhibition/performance at elac, espace lyonnais d'art in Lyon, France, from 2 April - 7 May 1995 with the participation of Stephane Berard, Julien Blaine, Jean-Francois Bory, Charles Dreyfus, Jean Dupuy, Manon Anne Gillis, Pierre Giouse, Joel Hubaut, Joe Jones, Arnaud LaBelle-Rojoux, Anne-Marie Lager Favre, Jean-Jacques Lebel, Rosario Mineo, Baudoin Ossterlynck, Philippe Perrin, Serge Pey, Patrick Ravella and Bernard Fort, Gilles Richard, Pierre Tilman.

Ben pour ou contre, une rétrospective is taking place at MAC, the contemporary galleries of the Museums of Marseille, from 14 July through 1 October 1995.

Art in the Air, a new art gallery show at the Tower Air terminal at Kennedy International Airport in New York includes work by Peter Halley, Jeff Koons and Keith Haring, Frank Stella and Robert Rauschenberg. All the works have been borrowed from well-known New York galleries by private art dealer, Jeffrey Deitch, and are all for sale from \$1,500 to \$400,000.

new periodicals

IGT (Box 299, Prince St. Station, New York, NY 10012, \$20/4 issues, \$5.50 copy) documents graffiti artists (writers) who find recognition by producing public art that is free from the commodity marketplace. There are interviews, articles, and a stunning visual record in each issue. This also is an archive of graffiti work, and complete back issues are still available. So every art library should have this title, documenting one small part of a complex total of visual history.

memorials

"There's Nothing More Exciting than Something You Don't Know About": a Celebration of the Life of Eric Mottram: Poems-Music-Tapes held in the Great Hall at King's College, The Strand, London on 3 March 1995 to celebrate the life of

Eric Mottram (1928-1995) with the participation of sound poets and writers such as Jerome Rothenberg, Paula Claire, Thomas A. Clark, Mort Sahl, Bob Cobbin and John Whiting, Jeff Nuttall and more.

LOST & FOUND

Lost: The Morse code--the Coast Guard has abandoned this system of communication which was sent first in 1844 by Samuel F.B. Morse. As every schoolchild once had to learn, that message was, "What hath God wrought."

Found: A pair of Fra Angelico panels which have been lost for well over a century have appeared in London, depicting the Blessed and the Damned. The central panel of the triptych has been missing since the 19th century and probably was The Last Judgment.

Found: 74 long lost French paintings on show at the Hermitage Museum in Russia. Catalog published by Harry N. Abrams for \$20.62 in Russian and \$51.55 in English. Paintings belong to German collectors, but the Russians hid these paintings until now. Oscar Krebs once owned 56 of the 74 paintings on exhibit. Russia feels that Germany lost the war after looting many thousands of art treasures from the Soviet Union, which won the war and looted in return. Russia would like to exchange stolen cultural treasures, but a lot of what the Nazis took is now in private hands. The exhibition is called "Hidden Treasures Revealed."

Lost: The Harbourfront Centre arts and recreational complex in Toronto will close on 15 September, and the land and buildings will be handed back to the federal government. The Ottawa-based federal government cut its contribution for upkeep, killing the program. 4,000 events a year from the International Festival of Authors to concerts for children will be cancelled. But the greatest loss for us is the Power Plant contemporary art gallery, which will be closed.

Restored: Attempts to keep the Leaning Tower of Pisa from tipping over included pouring liquid

nitrogen into 178 holes around the 12th-century tower to freeze the ground, helping to prevent vibrations as they begin removing the meter-deep layer of cement and mortar under its base.

Floundering: The American Center in Paris's finances are threatening the center's survival because the private donations needed to run it have not come through. Rumors have it that they may sell the Frank Gehry new building and rent it from the owners.

Mutilated: A collection of photographs including autographed pictures of Miles Davis, Billie Holiday and Charlie Parker, borrowed by the University of California, Santa Cruz library for Black History Month commemorative display from Mick Gannon has been cut, cropped and taped over to make a large collage. Some autographs, some addressed to Mr. Gannon, had been cut, and the pianist Horace Silver's band was trimmed away. The librarian said the "cutting was a mistake."

Removed: Henry Moore's Draped reclining figure, Ben Nicholson's painting, Spirit of Architecture, a Geoffrey Clarke sculpture and a clock by the Ironside Brothers were removed after legal action was attempted to prevent Time-Life in London from removing those works of art from its former office building in London's New Bond Street. As a result, Time-Life is free to sell the works. An appeal has been initiated by the Westminster City Council.

Lost: After 80 years, the Canadian Army has decided that sending artists to cover wars is like hiring a calligrapher to do the office photocopying. This will be the end of the Canadian war-art program, which has produced over 11,000 works for the Canadian War Museum, including paintings from the two most recent major commissions--Somalia and the Persian Gulf war.

Trying to Recover: For decades, the Italian government had a list of artworks looted by the Nazis in Italy during World War II, locked away at the Foreign Ministry. The

catalog of 2,356 objects was allowed to fade from prominence in the 1980s in deference to keeping good relations with West Germany.

Now Italy is emboldened to retrieve these objects, since united Germany's recent claims against Russia for the return of German artworks seized in Nazi Germany by Soviet troops have made the headlines. Italy suspects one-fifth of Italy's lost art might have landed in Russia. After languishing after former policeman and art collector, Rodolfo Siviero, had headed an art-recovery agency under the Foreign Ministry, this year the catalog which is updated will be published in Italian, English and German. In addition to works by Michelangelo, Tintoretto and Titian, it lists many paintings by 14th-century artists like Simone Maritni and Pietro Lorenzetti, works of Roman sculpture, Etruscan and Hellenistic jewelry and medieval art like a 13th-century baptismal font.

Beheaded: Two figures of a Henry Moore sculpture were found beheaded recently at an outdoor gallery on a Scottish estate. Police were looking for the missing heads of the "King and Queen," a bronze of a man and woman sitting on a bench, which was described as one of the late sculptor's most important works. Detectives said that the decapitation was probably vandalism but they did not rule out political activism as a possibility.

Lost & Found Again: Two gold artifacts stolen from a National Geographic Society museum were recovered from a Washington, DC pawnshop, one day after they were taken and just hours after a \$20,000 reward was offered for their return. The two king vultures were among three pre-Columbian gold artifacts stolen from the society's Explorers Hall Museum, dating from about 1400.

Preserved: The archives of the works of Gordon Park, including photographs, music, papers, films, recordings and drawings, have been acquired by the Library of Congress as a gift from the artist, who "wanted it all stored under one roof and a roof that I could respect."

MUSEUMS

A 17th-century Carmelite convent has become Rome's newest museum, the **Modern and Contemporary Municipal Art Gallery**. Opened in January, the collection comprises more than 4,500 works dating from 1883 to 1943. Address is 24 Via Francesco Crispi. Open Tuesday to Sunday.

The Bata Show Museum opened in Toronto, Canada on 6 May with Edward Maeder, formerly the costume curator of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, its new director. The whole philosophy of the museum is that footwear holds the key to human identity--social status, climate, religion, sex and profession of the wearer. The study of shoes can chart a country's technological development and mark even the subtlest shifts in attitudes, values and fashion.

The Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, Texas will be building a new 185,000-square-foot building desired by Spanish architect, Rafael Moneo. The building will break ground in 1996 and be finished in 1999. An underground gallery will link this new building to the 1924 building and two additions, desired by Mies van der Rohe in 1958 and 1974.

Kobe's disaster relief from the earthquake on January 17 came in the form of assistance from American museum experts, such as the conservators at the J. Paul Getty Museum, who traveled to Kobe with others to assess the damage at the **Otani Memorial Museum**, the **Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Modern Art**, the **Kobe Municipal Museum** and private facilities. Many of the museums benefited a lot from "fate", said the experts, since several large galleries happened to be empty during the quake. Most of the damage to artworks is repairable, but it could have been prevented. Although Japanese conservators were aware of measures that have been successfully used by the Getty to mitigate earthquake damage, Kobe museums--like institutions in seismic areas in many other countries--had not implemented those methods. The Internet will be

the link between Japanese conservators and foreign colleagues, with a larger meeting between Japanese conservators and their American counterparts in the near future.

The **Prado** museum in Madrid, after the embarrassment of a leaking roof and talk of rats in the basement, has at last been promised the money and additional space to justify its place as the crown jewel of Spanish culture. An international architectural competition to find the best design has begun. It will involve the neighboring Palacio del Buen Retiro with two buildings being added to incorporate the ruins of the cloisters of the Jeronimos Church, immediately behind the Prado's headquarters, and the other, on vacant land adjoining the main museum building. These new buildings will incorporate offices, restaurant, cloakrooms, shop and library.

Not only the infrastructure, but the design will be a challenge. In addition, with such a large collection of 7,679 paintings, 907 statues, 6,068 drawings and 2,186 engravings in its collection, it wants 25 curators but can afford only 10.

A one and only stop **Monet** exhibition, **Claude Monet: 1840-1946**, curated by Charles Stuckey, Curator of Twentieth Century Art at the **Art Institute of Chicago** will take place from 22 July to 26 November 1995. To order tickets within the US, phone (800)929-5800, or from abroad 0101-708-889-9800. There will be 156 oil paintings and five works on paper. This is the largest show ever of Monet's work.

The Museum of Contemporary Art in Tokyo's Koto Ward opened on 18 March and displays some 3,500 paintings and sculptures that formerly were shown at the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum.

The Guggenheim Museum is planning to open three new museum sites in Venice, with Venice's city government covering most of the costs. Two of the 41 national pavilions in the Castello Gardens, the site of the Venice Biennale, would be converted into year-round

art spaces. The Italian Pavilion would become a Museum of Contemporary Art, and the American Pavilion, already owned by the Guggenheim, would exhibit works by contemporary artists. A third site, a 16th-century salt factory on the Giudecca Canal, would be transformed into the Guggenheim Museum Venice, also featuring contemporary works. The Guggenheim already owns and operates the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in the Palazzo Venier dei Leoni on Venice's Grand Canal.

The Cooper-Hewitt, the National Design Museum that is part of the Washington-based Smithsonian Institution, his about to embark on a \$20 million renovation that will force the museum to close for a year, beginning on 21 August. This is the first time the home of Andrew Carnegie will be expanded for better climate control and more efficient study and storage areas, as well as more of the museum will be open to the public.

The International Museum of Cartoon Art to open in January 1996 in Boca Raton, Florida, will contain the largest collection of cartoon and comic strip art in the world--an eclectic array of editorial cartoons, caricatures, comic strips and comic books, magazine and book illustrations, advertising art, greeting cards and animated films.. The museum will host animation festivals, cartoonists' conventions, and other special events, estimating 1 million visitors a year.

PERFORMANCE ART

Artpool in Budapest is celebrating Performance in 1995 with nine days of performance videos from around the world through July 1995. All materials are stored in the video-archives of Artpool for researchers and other people interested to see them. There are works by 300 artists from 20 countries.

In the Fall of 1995, Artpool is planning to organize further screenings of the performance videos of the Artpool Archives in Budapest, from 25 September to 6 October. A catalog for both performance events will be published in September.. For more

information, write to Artpool, H-1277, Budapest 23, pf.52, Hungary.

The founders of Artpool, Gyorgy Galantai and Julia Klaniczay Galantai were in Quebec from 20 April - 7 May at Le Lieu with a performance and lecture and an exhibition of the Hands Project for the first time, as well as a conference-Performance at Articule in Montreal.

Brazilian performance artist, Jonas dos Santos, known for his sculpture and performances that emphasize recycled materials, has been living in Newark, New York since Earth Day, 22 April, and enlisted the help of community members in making his sculptures and costumes. Their "art materials" consist of string, cloth and plastic from Goodwill Industries, and old newspapers donated by the local newspaper.

They have used about 100 bundles of the newspaper, or approximately a ton for his residency, which ended 8 July. The piece is called "Eco Artreach", including all participants wearing headdresses and outfits made from the newspaper "vines", sculpted into abstract flower and gourd shapes. Others will be wearing tunics made of foam shoulder pads, overlapping like plates of armor.

ARTISTS IN MOVIES

Robert Longo, David Salle and now Julian Schnabel! Where will it all end? At any rate, it is now known that Julian Schnabel is making a film, called "Build a Fort, Set it on Fire" about the life of Jean-Michel Basquiat. The film, budgeted at just under \$3 million and to be made in a lightning-fast 30 days, has David Bowie playing

Andy Warhol, Dennis Hopper playing the Swiss dealer Bruno Bischofberger, and early supporter of Basquiat's. Michael Chow, the restaurateur, appears as himself; Parker Posey appears as Mary Boone; and Basquiat is played by Jeffrey Wright. Basquiat is the young painter who came up from being a graffiti artist to the darling of the art world, who overdosed at the age of 27. Gary Oldman plays an older artist, a composite of Schnabel et al.

CENSORSHIP

The censorship case in Canada, which tested Canada's tough child pornography law, seems to have been resolved with the return of works to a Toronto artist that the police removed from an art gallery's walls. Eli Langer's 5 paintings and 35 sketches, which portrayed children and adults in sexual acts, stirred bitter controversy over police powers and freedom of expression. The judge finally decided the case upon the "uncontradicted evidence of the art experts that in the view of the artistic community, Mr. Langer's work has artistic merit." The tug of war between aesthetics and the child pornography law, which makes it a crime to own, make, exhibit or sell anything that depicts a sexual act by anyone under 18, will come to a head when Mercer Union gallery will exhibit the works again in September for the public to decide. It took 18 months out of the life of the artist, Eli Langer.

Carlo Pittore, longtime mail artist, catalyst, and painter from Bowdoin, Maine, was asked to remove 7 paintings of nudes from an exhibit

of 13 paintings scheduled to be shown in the lobby of the Portland Stage (Maine) for one week during the current run of a play, called *Sight Unseen*. Pittore refused, and withdrew the entire exhibit. His comment: "Our society evidently has difficulty in dealing with paintings of naked people."

Young Art in Germany after Beuys, an exhibition sponsored by Goethe Institute in Hong Kong, was censored by the authorities in Hong Kong, and the title exhibit was removed after officials declared it illegal. A government team turned up to confiscate the installation *Die Hoerhner* by the late artist, Joseph Beuys. They claimed that the Goethe Institute had no license to display the two rhino horns connected by blood-filled tubing, and that under the terms of the Animals and Plants (Protection of Endangered Species) Ordinance, the piece had to be taken to their laboratories for investigation. A diplomatic incident was only narrowly avoided when, after intervention by the German Consulate-General, the officers allowed the work to remain in the Arts Centre as long as it was taken down. The work was insured for \$10 million.

A cardboard fig leaf has been used to cover the distinguishing features of a bronze sculpture, *New Man*, by Dame Elisabeth Frink on display in Central Hong Kong, considered as indecent because it depicts a nude lifesize male.



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