

## ArtPEOPLE

**Sandra DeNola Kirshenbaum**, self described Wordpusher, Editor and Writer, died in December. Born July 4, 1938, in Milan, she came to San Francisco with her parents in 1940 to escape fascism, became a rare book dealer before founding *Fine Print* in 1975, a world-renowned journal devoted to the book arts. As editor and publisher, she was a central figure in the renaissance of the Bay Area-based book arts movement, through its pages supporting and encouraging its many practitioners world-wide. Another publication, *Pro Arte Libre*, followed for a time. For over two decades her office—filled with unusual, handmade books, prints, and other works of art—became a gathering place not only for a devoted staff but for an eclectic array of artists, craftspeople, writers, editors, academicians, collectors, librarians, and book dealers. Her warmth, enthusiasm and wit were great assets to her endeavors and to those who knew her. A founder of the Colophon Club of San Francisco, she lectured widely and earned many honors, including the American Printing History Association Award, and the Oscar Lewis Award from the Book Club of California in 1998. The Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley published her oral history in 2002, and an index of *Fine Print*, authored by Sandy, was published this year.

**Ibram Lassaw**, 90, an abstract sculptor whose works are in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, Guggenheim Museum, was a New York School artist who helped found American Abstract Artists, which was devoted to nonrepresentational art. Lassaw was known for his colorful metal sculptures with titles that alluded to astronomy and science.

**Wally Hedrick**, an iconoclastic artist and leading member of the Beat generation in San Francisco, died in December at the age of 75. He was a prolific painter whose works shared gallery space with painters like Jackson Pollock, Bruce Conner, Jay DeFeo and Deborah Remington. He founded the Six Gallery, a major gathering spot for Beat artists and writers in the 1950s, where Allen Ginsberg gave the first reading of his poem, "Howl". Married to Jay DeFeo, best known for her two-story-tall, 2,300-pound painting, *The Rose*, their marriage ended in divorce.

**Juan Garcia Ponce**, 71, a renowned art critic, translator and prize-winning novelist, died in December in Mexico City from multiple sclerosis. Among the magazines he edited were the *Mexican*

*Literature Magazine* and *Vuelta*, founded by the late Nobel Prize-winning Mexican author, Octavio Paz.

**Jess**, an artist whose idiosyncratic paintings and collages made him a cult figure in American art, died on 2 January in San Francisco at the age of 80. A reclusive artist whose Symbolist and Surrealist tendencies kept him working outside mainstream styles like Abstraction Expressionism in the 1950s and Pop Art in the 1960s, Jess (Collins) made a big impression on George Herms, Wallace Berman, Bruce Conner and Ed Kienholz. A major retrospective, "Jess: A Grand Collage" originated at the Albright-Knox Gallery in Buffalo and traveled to New York, Washington and San Francisco in 1993-94.

**Vincent Smith**, an artist whose work depicted the rhythms and intricacies of black life in diverse styles, from a hard-edged, socially conscious expressionism to riots of dazzling colors and patterns, died in late December at the age of 74. Black, who had more than 25 one-man shows and participated in more than 30 group exhibitions since the early 1970s, was among about a dozen prominent members of the Black Arts movement of the 1960s and 70s. He was known for his use of color and its luminosity, as well as placing his subjects in a stylized way against geometric, textured and intricately colored backgrounds. He also illustrated his friend, Amiri Baraka, the poet's books on jazz and the blues, as well as public art for the MTA's Art En Route program.

**Michael Straight**, the patrician former magazine publisher (of the *New Republic*) who described in a political memoir his lingering involvement with Soviet spies whom he had first met when they were all students at Cambridge University, died in January at the age of 87. Not only was he a publisher, but he also turned to novels, and from 1969 to 1977 he was deputy chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts.

**Rob Roy Kelly**, 78, a graphic design expert who helped revive an interest in wood type, died in Tempe, Arizona in January. He was the author of the 1977 history of typefaces, "American Wood Type, 1828-1900: Notes on the Evolution of Decorated and Large Types and Comments on Related Trades of the Period." The same year, he published the book, "100 Wood Type Alphabets." His personal collection of hard-to-find typefaces and books of historic printing which he obtained from old printers, was sold in the late 1960s to the Museum of Modern Art and later sent to the University of Texas where scholars could study it.

**Johan Wilhelm "Billy" Kluver**, 76, electrical engineer who worked with such artists as Jasper Johns and John

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Cage to create technological contemporary art, died in January of melanoma. A Swedish citizen born in Monaco and reared in Salen, Sweden, Kluver earned a degree in electrical engineering from the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm and later a doctorate from UC Berkeley, where he taught briefly. In 1952, he helped install the TV antenna atop the Eiffel Tower in Paris; in the 1960s he was a technician for Bell Telephone Laboratories in Murray Hill, NJ earning 10 patents.

Beginning in the 1960s he began a lengthy collaboration with artists, helping Jean Tinguely create the machine that destroyed itself, "Homage to New York," in the garden of the Museum of Modern Art. He provided neon letters for Johns' paintings, helped Rauschenberg with his sound sculpture, "Oracle," and helped musician Cage and choreographer Merce Cunningham utilize technology for their "Variation V". He also worked with Andy Warhol on his "Silver Clouds."

In 1966, Kluver helped Rauschenberg and others found Experiments in Art and Technology for artists and engineers and served as president in 1968. He headed a team that created the Pepsi Pavilion for Expo '70 in Osaka, Japan, and co-wrote the book, *Pavilion* about the experience. He also published the book, *A Day with Picasso* in the U.S. in 1997 and in six other countries.

**Helmut Newton**, 83, the prolific, widely imitated fashion photographer whose provocative, erotically charged black-and-white photos were a mainstay of *Vogue* and other publications, died in a car crash in Hollywood, after taking the wheel of his car from his winter abode, Chateau Marmont, driving into a wall. He, along with Herb Ritts, Irving Penn and Richard Avedon, moved fashion photography from a staid reflection of this year's styles to a more artful presentation of mood and story, having photographed some of the most beautiful women in the world in poses that emphasized their sexuality and often an accompanying sense of danger and violence. He is to be buried in Berlin, where he was born. Berlin offered an honorary grave to its famous citizen. Newton signed a contract in 2003 to turn his archive over to Berlin for display.

**Francesco Scavullo**, one of the world's best-known photographers of beautiful women, died in early January at the age of 82. In a career spanning more than five decades and countless covers for magazines such as *Vogue*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Harper's Bazaar*, Scavullo photographed some of the most beautiful women in the

world, including Grace Kelly, Elizabeth Taylor, Michelle Pfeiffer, Kim Basinger and Diana Ross.

**George Woodridge**, an illustrator for *Mad Magazine* for nearly 50 years whose exquisitely detailed pen-and-ink drawings were featured in nearly every issue, died in January at the age of 73. A stickler for detail, authenticating even the drape of clothing by studying historical documents, Woodridge was also an illustrator of military history books.

**Therese Thau Heyman**, a curator of photographs, graphic art and drawings and an expert on American photographic history, died in January at the age of 74. She worked at the Smithsonian Institute, the National Museum of American Art and the Oakland Museum of California. She was also on the board of the Smith College Museum of Art and on staff at the Yale Art Museum, where she was a curatorial assistant. She wrote or edited books on Dorothea Lange, California Modernist Art, and *Picturing California: A Century of Photographic Genius*.

**Philip A. Straus**, a retired New York investment banker, financier and patron of the arts and education, died in February at the age of 88. Knowledgeable about prints and art conservation, he gave money in 1928 to establish a technical laboratory for art restoration at the Fogg Art Museum at Harvard. He also supported the Museum of Modern Art.

**Norman Thelwell**, British cartoonist, who was known for his drawings in the satirical magazine *Punch*, died in February at the age of 80. Over about 25 years Thelwell drew about 1,500 cartoons, including 60 front covers, for *Punch*, which is no longer published.

**Jill Korntree**, an art dealer whose Manhattan gallery handled the work of many well-known contemporary artists early in their careers, died in late January at the age of 84. She gave shows in the 1960s and 70s to Howard Hodgkin, Dan Flavin, Malcolm Morley, Rackstraw Downes, Al Hansen, Janet Fish, Richard Smith, Peter Phillips and Michael Mazur. She also mounted many shows of work by Betty Parsons, who was a gallery dealer as well as an artist.

**Charlotte Zwerin**, a documentary filmmaker known for insightful depictions of visual and performing artists like Christo, Willem de Kooning, Noguchi, Ella Fitzgerald and Thelonious Monk, died at the age of 72 in January. She worked for many years with the Maysles brothers, early practitioners of the documentary genre known as *cinéma-verité*, which uses a small camera to capture the drama of daily experience.

**Harold Shapinsky**, an Abstract Expressionist whose paintings remained largely unappreciated until late in his career, died on 31 January at the age of 78. His combination of intensity and shyness did not help him get into the public eye. With an article in the *New Yorker* and a profile on Channel 4 TV in Britain, his star started to climb at the age of 60 in 1985.

**Clark Byers**, the former \$3-a-week buttermilk bottler who traversed 19 states for more than 3 decades painting those slogans such as "See Rock City. When you see Rock City, You see the Best. To Miss Rock City Would be a Pity" died at the age of 89 in Georgia. He painted those slogans on more than 900 barn roofs, many of which have become historic sites. Most are in Tennessee.

**Dan Kiley**, a seminal landscape architect who combined modernist functionalism with classical design principles in more than 1,000 projects, died in February at the age of 91. Many of his projects included the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, where he worked with Eero Saarinen; the Ford Foundation's headquarters and Lincoln Center in Manhattan, with its exquisite Scholar Garden; Dulles International Airport in Northern Virginia; the main pedestrian center of La Défense in Paris; and the four-acre Fountain Place in downtown Dallas.

**Daniel J. Boorstin**, the Pulitzer-Prize-winning and bestselling historian who had served as Librarian of Congress and director of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of History & Technology, died at the age of 89 in February. He wrote 24 books, which were translated into at least 30 languages and have sold millions of copies around the world.

**Fumihiko Maki**, a Japanese architect known for classical modern designs executed with a craftsman-like approach to technology, has been chosen to design an additional building for the United Nations. Open to only winners of the Pritzker Prize, the competition included Kevin Roche and Lord Norman Foster, while Richard Meier had withdrawn from the competition last summer.

The American Academy of Arts and Letters have elected to membership **Lee Bontecou** and **Lester Johnson**; visual artists among the writers and composers for this year.

**Spaulding Gray**, the masterful monologist of "Swimming to Cambodia" fame, who turned his darkest fears about life and death into riveting one-man performance pieces that defined the genre, was

found in the East River in New York City, a suicide, at the age of 62.

**Noah Purifoy**, the renowned assemblage artist and Watts Tower Arts Center co-founder, died at the age of 86 in a fire at his home in Joshua Tree. He was best known for "66 Signs of Neon," a traveling exhibition of sculptures made from 3 tons of rubble from the 1965 Watts riots. Most of his work was large and sprawling, unwieldy but artful combinations of bicycle wheels, bowling balls, train tracks, old refrigerators—making it nearly impossible to sell or collect. Most of it was assembled on 7 ½ acres in the high desert, owned since 1988 by the Noah Purify Foundation, a group dedicated to maintaining his open-air studio, gallery and museum.

**Elise Asher**, a painter and poet who blended image and poetry in her work, died in March at the age of 92. She was an artist whose work was shown and published for more than 50 years, starting with a one-woman show in 1953 and a collection of poetry in 1955. She was married to Stanley Kunitz, a former poet laureate of the United States. Her poetry has been published in the *Partisan Review* and other periodicals.

**William Moritz**, a longtime California Institute of the Arts professor who was an authority on abstract animation and the work of experimental filmmaker Oskar Fischinger, died in mid-March at the age of 63. He had just finished "Optical Poetry: The Life and Work of Oskar Fischinger," which was published the very week he died. A full-length biography on the avant-garde animator and painter who fled Nazi Germany for Hollywood in the 1930s, *Optical Poetry* was being launched the weekend after his death. Moritz was also an experimental filmmaker and made 44 of them, after earning a doctorate in comparative literature from USC, where he minored in cinema. Moritz was also a published poet and playwright, a lecturer and organizer of many film festivals. He was a force in the experimental animation world.

**Carolyn Cole**, veteran *LA Times* photographer, has received the George Polk Award in photojournalism for "her brutally honest portrayals of life in Iraq and Liberia," which "conveyed the stark reality of everyday life during times of war." Other winners from the Times received an award for economics reporting; Anne Garrels of NPR won for radio reporting "in recognition of her outstanding coverage of the war in Iraq." Duff Wilson, Brian Joseph and Sheila Farr of the Seattle Times won for local reporting for an expose of a local art gallery's unscrupulous dealings.

**Charlotte Zwerin**, who was in the vanguard of American documentary filmmaking for four decades as

an editor and director and who collaborated with the Maysles brothers on the landmark "Gimme Shelter," died at the age of 72 in Manhattan. She was instrumental in co-directing with the brothers two films on the artist Christo: "Running Fence" (1978) and "Islands" (1987). She also did solo films: "De Kooning on de Kooning (1981) about the painter and "Sculpture of Spaces: Noguchi" (1995), a look at Noguchi's gardens, playgrounds, and other public spaces.

**Bates Lowry**, an art and architectural historian who was the founding director of the National Building Museum in Washington and served for a short time as director of the Museum of Modern Art in New York, died in March at the age of 80. He and his wife were fantastic collectors, of early photographs, including daguerreotypes, of tramp art, and of friends throughout the world. His wife, Isabel, predeceased him in December.

**Milton Resnick**, a New York painter known for dour, thickly impastoed near-monochrome canvases, died on 12 March in Manhattan at the age of 87 by his own hand. Volatile, acerbic, unfailingly blunt, widely read and singularly dedicated to the idea of the painter's hard, solitary life, Resnick was in many ways the popular stereotype of the bohemian angst-ridden artist. A teacher at many art school across the country, he had 25 solo shows in New York City; the Contemporary Arts Museum in Houston in 1985 organized a retrospective of his work.

**Zaha Hadid**, an Iraqi-born British citizen, was chosen as the 2004 Laureate of the Pritzker Architecture Prize marking the first time a woman has been named for this 26-year-old award. Hadid, who is 53, has completed one project in the United States, the Richard and Lois Rosenthal Center for Contemporary Art in Cincinnati, Ohio; and is currently developing another to co-exist with a Frank Lloyd Wright structure, the Price Tower Arts Center in Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

Her other completed projects in Europe include a fire station for the Vitra Furniture Company in Weil am Rhein, Germany; LFone/Landesgartenschau, an exhibition building to mark the 1999 garden festival in that same city; a car park and terminus Hoenheim North, a "park and ride" and tramway on the outskirts of Strasbourg, France; and a ski jump situated on the Bergisel Mountain overlooking Innsbruck, Austria. She was a student of Rem Koolhaas. She will receive the \$100,000 plus medal at St. Petersburg, Russia.

**Toni Onley**, one of Canada's most flamboyant, prolific and wealthy artists, died in February when his familiar float plane plunged into the Fraser River. He was Vancouver's celebrated, larger-than-life artist who attracted almost as much controversy as his delicate prints and watercolors attracted buyers. He had been flying for 39 years, always scouring the corners of Canada for isolated landscapes to paint. He was particularly fond of the Arctic and the west coast of British Columbia. He was an environmental activist, supporting numerous environmental causes and regularly donating paintings to local cultural fundraisers. The Isle of Man, where Onley lived before he came with his family to Canada at the age of 19, honored him a few years ago with a series of stamps reproducing five of his meticulous watercolors.

**Jane Addams Allen Guthrie**, critic, editor and art historian, died of cancer on 31 January at the age of 68. She was a critic for the *Chicago Tribune*, art critic for the *Washington Times* and *Insight* magazine, as well as contributor to many national art magazines. But she is best known for co-founding Chicago's *New Art Examiner*, with the British painter and critic Derek Guthrie, whom she later married. She was the recipient of many awards including two art critic's grants from the National Endowment for the Arts.

