

ARTIST BOOKS

Most of the books reviewed here are available at Printed Matter, 535 West 22nd St., New York City, the new venue for Printed Matter, unless otherwise indicated

REFERENCE

Stanley Brouwn: A Chronological Survey 1957 - 2001 by Harry Ruhé is the first book on Brouwn, with detailed information on his Fluxus activities as well. It appears in a loose-leaf white binder, in a white slipcase, with tipped in black and white and color illustrations. This is a very handsome presentation of a bibliography of an artist who has been unappreciated but is one of the most remarkable artists from the second half of the 20th century.

"At the request of the artist there are no photos or bi-bibliographical data." Since 1972, this sentence (or a variation thereof) is found in the catalogs of group exhibitions that Stanley Brouwn participated in. From that year onwards the artist refuses to supply any biographical data, or give interviews. He is even extremely hesitant in allowing the reproduction of his work. In 1970, he began his career with a museum exhibition in Schiedam, Holland. He had already been known in Germany, having taken part in Fluxus-related actions, and his work was published in a large number of books and magazines. He was one of the first conceptual artists. For instance, in 1960 he "organized" an exhibition of all the shoe stores in Amsterdam and sent out invitations asking people to visit the stores at a certain time."

Available for 44.50 Euros, or \$40.00 from Galerie A, Joh. Verhulststraat 53, 1071 Ms Amsterdam, Holland.

BOOKWORKS

Arvid by Anne Saelby is the story of this older man who from 26 July - 25 August 2000 is photographed at the same table each day in his bedraggled condition, with gnarled hands, sometimes a sparkle in the eye, but oftentimes sad. About the 7th of August, he appears to know the presence of the artist, almost willing to talk, and then shows her a photograph of himself as a soldier either in Korea or Vietnam. In another week he has a pair of glasses on, and a smile on his face, in fact much more animated. The photographs are set in an Exercise Book used by students with English and Chinese alphabets on the back cover. \$10.00

The Book of Shadows by Adam Rake is a magical bookwork, created in entirety by the artist, including a poem at the beginning of the book which tells of the necessity of "waiting with patience and humility" for human transcendence to occur in an era "existing within shadows." The imagery throughout the book derives from figures from Greek vases of the 4th and 5th centuries B.C., placed into carefully composed compositions by the artist. The images turn one way and another creating new images by manual manipulation, and the book is larger than it is because of this technique.

Everything about this book is elegant from the gray recycled French Paper to the fine Pantone inks and the simple but perfect hand binding. Offset and letterpress printing makes this a non-digital, exquisite bookwork. \$23.00 from Adam Rake, 4812 Springfield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19143.

Melody Marketing by Joan Lyons (Rochester, VSW Press, 2001, \$12.00) is a discussion of what came before MP3, DVD, CD, MTV. With photographs of various residential buildings including houses and apartment houses of various eras, the pitch is presented with asides which direct the salesman of the new music store in town to give his pitch to the unknowing "folks". The lead is to present the customers with a new music technology, not vinyl, not reel to reel, not eight track cartridges. Instead, it is cassettes that is the new leader. And of course, it needs the new players to play the new fangled cassettes.

The book, itself, is printed on lined paper with "Row, row, row your boat" in music score at the top of each double page, always interspersed with photographs of residential buildings. And the pitch goes on for Melody Marketing to provide the family with the machine, the cassettes (any they want at half-price from the store). The pitch goes on. The covers are in color, and Nathan Lyons appears on the back cover with the Melody Marketeer.

Manga XI by Magnus Johnstone (n.p., n.d., \$3.00) is a book of drawings about all sorts of human activities such as reading, ventriloquism, femmes fatales, bonding, rivalry, all with aspects of manga or anime, a kind of story without words about fantasy. For more fantasy, see <http://usserpages.prexar.com/magnus>

The Tango by Leslie Scalapino and Marina Adams (New York, Granary Books, 2001, \$29.95 paper) brings poet

Scalapino and artist Adams together in a serial poem, placing conceptual phenomena, such as roses and language-subjectivity, together as if they are materials by being text-only. The photographs are of Tibetan monks debating at the Sera Monastery outside Lhasa in Tibet interspersed with abstract paintings on found patterned textile, as serial tapestry akin to Buddhist tankas as if "alongside" that tradition in a conceptual extension of that which is "original."

This is a large volume asking what can I learn to know myself?

Nakazora by Masao Yamamoto (Tucson, Nazraeli, 2002, \$85.00) is a most unusual book, for it is a scroll measuring over 18 feet long, beautifully printed in process color on coated Japanese stock. Yamamoto, who selects his gelatin silver photos with timeless imagery, has chosen the scroll as a perfect presentation for "Nakazora", which, according to the dictionary, is the space between sky and earth, the place where birds fly. Empty air, an internal hollow. Vague, hollow, around the center of the sky. Or, emptiness. A state when the feet do not touch the ground. Inattentiveness. The inability to decide between two things. Midway. The center of the sky (the zenith). A Buddhist term.

Here the artist is indeed combining the aesthetic and tactile attributes of this traditionally one-off format, the scroll, with the advantages of modern printing technology. There is a wonderful pacing as one unfurls the scroll slowly, looking at these amazing small images of skies, mountains, views, while the artist slows down the eye, instructs the hand, and makes meditation and contemplation part of the contract between artist and viewer. Tradition combines with hi-tech to make a singular experience. The scroll is housed in a wood-and-acrylic box. ISBN 1-59005-022-3.

Pots & Pans by Bob Gregson is the result of seeing a book entitled "Pots & Pans, etc." in 1974. When Gregson opened it, he was disappointed to see that it was exactly what it said, a book about pots & pans. So at that time, he created a small book inspired by the title. It has changed completely over the years, becoming a kind of event or performance. One can read the book in a linear fashion, or serendipitously, or in a playful manner. Which ever way the reader takes, the bookwork has meaning, sometimes with a theme of birth, life and death or beginning, middle and end, but if not treated in a linear fashion, the book has a playful significance as well. The flow has been rearranged for this 2001 edition. What it involves are two words which are usually joined with an ampersand or "and"—words that go together, such as "cease & desist" or "young & foolish" and so it goes. This boxed edition is a lovely gift for friends and enemies alike...a gift of words to illuminate the passage, two

words to a page. Available for \$40 from Bob Gregson, 788 Grassy Hill Rd., Orange, CT 06477.

Noggins by Mark Pawson is the result of collecting those small Viking figures with wooden bodies and hair made from fur, wearing horned helmets and always coming equipped with weapons and shields. The "Noggins" handle comes from Pawson's allusion to Noggin the Nog books, which were part of his childhood. Noggins are usually made in Scandinavia, but there are those made in Britain, Spain and Japan, and also found in Britain, Cyprus, Malta, Lanzarote and Mallorca. The Noggins in this book were found in secondhand stores, junk shops, charity shops, flea markets.

As most collectors, he has gone into their design and materials, background and history, and instead of just doing what most mail artists do, i.e. make a postcard, he decided to do a book, and has started collecting similar but not-quite-Noggins, such as Cavemen, Scotsmen, Monkeys and so this book, with almost life-size images on each page, details of each part, and then there are childhood drawings, a picture of Pawson next to a life-size Noggin in Denmark, and much more. Bibliography included. This book is \$21.00 at Printed Matter. www.mpawson.demon.co.uk/noggins

Mandrigo is an assembling by the Mandrigo people edited by Peter Coffin, who has created a gathering of pages created by a large group of artists including old advertisements, Xeroxed pages of diagrams, barcodes, tickets, color photos, satirical collages, silkscreens, handprints, brainprints, footprints, printing on mylar, etc. A nice collection, in covers with velcro closing. \$16.00

A Fable for Beginners or Only the Buttons are Real by Betsy Hulick is a brilliant fable about a sad life, one which is told through drawings interspersed with some text, which allows one to turn the pages quickly, getting to the moral of the story. A little girl, a mother, a father, and a little brother who live in a house in the woods. Sounds familiar? It is. This is one time when turning the pages gets to create a rhythm and a resolution at the same time. \$10.00

Untitled 2001 by Heather Bennett deals with the question of advertisements using the female figure, extremely polished and sophisticated, and yet blatant ubiquity. So this time, Bennett takes advertising one step further into the gallery space. Juxtaposing the image of the advertisement created by the agency is an image recontextualized using the artist herself, challenging assumptions and yet creating the same aesthetic and seductive quality of the original advertisements. There definitely is tension between the images and the intent. The sexual factor is a given, but the images done by the artist seem to generate new questions, some of which are critical to

the mediation between intellect, persuasion and intimacy. A tour de force. Color reproduction throughout. \$16.00

Police (State) USA by Sharon Gilbert deals with a Supreme Court declaration on 24 April 2001 which allows the Police to put you in jail before you are tried, even if it is a minor infraction which the maximum penalty is a small fine, and this doesn't violate the Fourth Amendment's prohibition against unreasonable seizure, .e.g. seatbelts not worn. Gilbert keeps asking about "inalienable rights?" How about jaywalking, yelling, burping, smoking, farting, sleeping, honking, those other small offenses.

Of course, this bookwork was created before 9-11 but it's hard to believe. And now ever greater intrusion into our privacy has been enacted by the government. Such abuse of power, however justified, would seem to ignore several problems such as racial profiling, which were being assessed just prior to the World Trade Center tragedy. Gilbert is asking how to balance the rights of an individual and the need for communal security? Our freedom is indeed being sacrificed, and this artist book makes us question what is really going on. Simple, spiral-bound with civic responses. \$25.00

GM Future by Sarah Bodman shows us how flowers are being manipulated for decoration and breeding purposes, creating blooms more frequently so that cheaper flowers can be produced during the winter months. Genetically engineered plants create the sameness we see, while smart plants tell us when they need watering, or if they are being attacked by insects or viruses.

All the text is interspersed with sections of botanical texts, color images of flowers and trees, diagrams from gardening books, as well as images of insects which have created problems for people who eat these vegetables and get rashes or burns or created allergic reactions to these vegetables. All kinds of problems have evolved because of this genetic engineering, including higher prices for food and then cloning has evolved into human cloning. And then if you read this book, the future is the past and the past is prologue. \$33.00

The Merchant of Marvels and the Peddler of Dreams by Frédéric Clément (San Francisco, Chronicle Books, 2001, \$16.95 hardback) is a delightful search for the perfect birthday gift for Frederick Knick-Knack's best friend, the Merchant of Marvels, who has everything. He thinks of elephants as small as specks of sand, or the broken end of Pinocchio's nose or an eyelash stolen from the Queen of Sheba, or a ticket for a thousand and one flights on a thousand and one nights, or even Mona Lisa's beauty spot, and so many more remarkable suggestions.

This wonderful illustrator of books has married word and image, creating pages rich with finely crafted objets d'art, line drawings, and exquisite watercolors. There is mystery and enchantment even in the placement of word and illustration, so that the rhythm of the text and objects drives the reader on seek the solution to the dilemma of finding the perfect gift for his friend Alice. This dream weaver has created a classic in its own time. This is a book for all ages.

Hippolyte's Island, an illustrated novel, by Barbara Hodgson (San Francisco, Chronicle Books, 2001, \$24.95 hardcover) tells the story of Hippolyte Webb who gets the itch to travel, takes out some of his oldest maps and finds a set of islands in the South Atlantic called The Auroras. On contemporary maps, however, they do not appear. The islands, seemingly, have disappeared.

So Hippolyte starts on his dream and adventure: to discover a group of islands, which have gone missing for centuries. But how to fund a trip? Why, with a book advance, of course!

Using her vast collection of the jetsam of life, old maps, shells, old prints, etc., Hodgson, book designer, writer, illustrator famed for *The Tattooed Map*, *The Sensualist*, and co-writer of *Paris Out of Hand* weaves in three parts this story as part armchair travel, part adventure on the high seas, and part adventure in the New York publishing house. Yet this adventure is all mysterious, because although he writes the book after discovering the islands, his New York editor doesn't believe him. The book is evocative, mysterious, and a wonderful read. Hodgson makes magic again! A must and you can find it at your local bookshop!

Two by Ted C. Ford

Sort of Exquisite: A Book of Juxtapositions includes 6 different scenarios by various people in which texts and images are collaged with poems of Rumi or statements by various people that seems weird by often insidious in today's culture. The bindings are exquisite with handmade papers and sewn bindings!

A Corpse of Sorts: A Book of Juxpositions includes four different scenarios with collaged text and images by four different artists. A little book with a gorgeous binding, handsewn again. Both these books are in an edition of 100. \$8.00

Sista Tongue by Lisa Linn Kanae (\$10 paper) is a book about pidgin as a language of discourse in Hawaii, how it came to be, how the Native Hawaiians began using that language, Hawai'i Creole English. There are excerpts from government reports, quotations from those who speak Pidgin, the problems of those who speak Pidgin to the detriment of

English, the problems with "orientals or Asians". The layout and design of the book is by Kristin Kaleinani Gonzales and amplifies and edifies the theme of this book. There is a bibliography about the Creole English spoken in Hawaii, as well as Speech Disorders.

Lab U.S.A.: Illuminated Documents, written and illustrated by Kevin C. Pyle (Dayton, OH, Autonomedia, 2001, \$17.50) begins with a quote from Marshall McLuhan: "Only the small secrets need to be protected. The big ones are kept secret by public incredulity." Herein are the shock corridors, experimental clinics, and field testing areas of biocatastrophe. Certainly the anthrax scare and planting is indicative of what has been going on and is going on today in the U.S. The first essay is written by the Critical Art Ensemble.

The stories, each true, are illustrated by moody drawings that are better than comics, and reminiscent of the imagery of William Kentridge. Real, but surreal at the same time. From injections of plutonium in the 1940s to pregnant women getting oral doses of radioactive iron as well as children getting breakfast food containing radioactive iron and calcium. Then pages of prisoners as guinea pigs, herein Kevin Pyle has chronicled the shocking and heart-breaking atrocities of the medical, psychiatric, military and prison establishments. All of this is demonstrated in remarkable black and white illustrations that frighten, enlighten and darken the horror stories herein revealed. This is an amazing artist book, one that should be read by your Congressmen and Senators, by the President and Vice President, and let them shudder as you shudder.

Two by Jesper Fabricius

Xanadu is a book creating a fantastic world in offset (Copenhagen, Space Poetry, 2001, \$7.00) which is an A-4 size 3-color dream world of yogis, office buildings, giraffes, strange hybrid animals, robots and spaceships, perpetual motion machines, and much more. The fantasy keeps going on and on and on. Fabricius has designed this with the help of students from the Academy of Fine Arts in Helsinki.

The New Yokoo Times by Tadanori Yokoo serves as an exhibition catalog and parody of the *New York Times* that is illustrated by the artist's collages, recently shown at the Roth Horowitz Gallery in Manhattan. The "newspaper" mimics the visual style of the NY Times and includes articles from the newspaper as well as satirical take-offs to simulate the original newspaper. The 20-page newspaper made with best heavier paper than newsprint, satirizes the self-promotion of artists, including Warhol, Chihuly and Yokoo; headlines have also been altered with wit. For instance on the front page, we read "Apology at Issue:

Pilot's Wife Denounces Yokoo Tadanori". This is a full-size newspaper with even the typefaces mimicking the original newspaper, still using old Life magazines for material, just as he did in the 1960s.

Known as the Andy Warhol of Japan, Yokoo is now in his late 60s, and he has been famous in Japan for his Pop-Surrealist paintings, an echo of Richard Hamilton in his own way with book designs, paintings, record album covers. Alas, he has not been well known in the States except for a retrospective at MOMA in 1972. Here is a collagist with density, sexy, ridiculous images, sometimes mystical and/or violent. He is always aware of art history and includes Cimabue and Mantegna among others in his collages. He does not neglect women usually coming from pornographic publications, disembodied eyes, animals attacking the Japanese royal family and much more. But his best work is in book designs and in this "newspaper" parody treating the book as a physical object, orchestrating image and text with abstract graphics. This is a must and available from Roth Horowitz, 160-A E. 70th St., Manhattan or from RHA, 8446A Melrose Place, Los Angeles, CA 90069. \$50.00

FINNISH BOOKWORKS

Zaroum by Cia Rinne is a self-published simple bookwork, ed. of 1000 numbered copies, rubber-stamped with sewn binding. Comprising 149 minimal thinking pieces, written on a typewriter and by hand, completed by simple drawings, and subdivided into chapters like zaroum afrique, zaroum musique, zaroum berlin, zaroum athina (Athens) etc. The zaroum pieces, composed in English, German and French, move from idea pictures that touch on serious philosophical themes to more abstract, at times, comic, linguistic and semantic brainteasers. It is wonderful to see the old technology (typewriter, even with red and black ribbon) for a change. The book reminds me of the 1960s and early 1970s, when typewriters were still being used widely by British artists, especially. But now, it looks even nostalgic but good. This is a treat when you see how cultured Cia Rinne is, reminiscent of Fluxus and Cage and much more. Available for 15 Euros plus postage from Cia Rinne, Karlbergsvagen 9, 00240 Kyrkslatt, Finland. siah@nomade.fr

Postcards by Joakim Eskildsen from "iChickenMoon" comes from a book by the same name by Cia Rinne and Joakim Eskildsen on the life of a black South African family in the rural area and a township a few years after the end of the Apartheid-era. The photographs are in five-color offset, exquisitely beautiful and the postcards are 2 Euros for all six or 50 eurocents per card. Please order at joaskild@hotmail.com

Comic Books and Graphic Novels

Asomatognosia/Whose Hand is it Anyway? Is dedicated to Big Questions in its fourth issue. This beautifully drawn graphic journal deals with The Idiot, The Three Visitors of Betty Sentry, Algernon, Algernon's Dream, Isaac, Betty's Second Dream and The Idiot. Some have bubbles, some are silent, but they are well drawn and produced by Airplane/Anders Brekhus Nilsen. \$4.00 with color cover

Love Eats Brains, a Zombie Romance #1 (\$1.00) and #2/3 (\$2.00) are two comic books which have no ghosts, devils, goblins. They tolerate vampires and werewolves, if they follow tradition and behave the way respectable vampires and werewolves should. They relish tales of sadism. Virtue doesn't always need to Triumph. And so it goes.

LITTLE BOOKS

Greetings from Las Vegas by Taly & Russ Johnson is a colorful collage of both sound, smell and rhythm of Las Vegas with its absurdities and its truths interspersed with manipulated texts, paintings, with photographs and collaged images, and the sadness of the place exuding every page. \$9.95

Abstraktion by Jesper Fabricius is a very small book of color photographs of plants and flowers suspended in air, with a poetic abstraction in each image. A beautiful work. \$4.00

Ohio, Late July by Katie Glicksberg is a series of beautiful photographs of an Ohio that one would remember if one had seen it that July or any July. It is a true sequence of photographs that has no text, but has so much to say. Published in Brooklyn, New York by the artist in 2001, \$12.00.

The 36 Unknown by Todd Weinstein is a remarkable collection of "spirit" photographs which commemorate the 36 righteous ones in which the world could only exist when there are a minimum 36 righteous ones. In looking for these "spirits" in which they may appear, they may not appear, they may be known, they may be unknown. And so, Weinstein, an outstanding and well-recognized photographer found himself looking for those 36 who might save the world, appearing when they are needed, and one of them might also be the Messiah (Kabbalah). Thus Jews tend to treat strangers with kindness, since one of them might be the Messiah.

The photographs are remarkable, found portraits in the rocks, in the walls, in barbed wire, in light and shadows. The essay is by Rabbi James Stone Goodman translated into

French as well as English. The captions are also in French and English. There is also a bio-chronology of Todd Weinstein. This book is moving, spiritual, and a journey not only for the photographer but also for the "reader".

Marx Angels by Pavel Bücher is part of the Formats Series of Book Works, a part of a commissioned work for Library Relocations at Chetham's Library in Manchester, England. Bücher responded to the library in Manchester and created a work of art, part of which was this book about Marx, Engel, their correspondence, their wives, and their lives. A week's worth of texts and images that go beyond the page. London, 1997, \$6.00

Farewell to Earth by Dan Rose imagines the future when the progeny will have just a vague image of what went on before on Earth. What Rose created in the galleries at Illinois Wesleyan University is an environment made from clay and topsoil from the Illinois prairie, and miniature houses made out of Davey board (the material used to make the inside of hard cover books).

Then using categories, Dan Rose first shows us the landscape and dwellings, then goes into linguistics, then imagines what will be inside heads with switches and then takes us on a journey on a flightpath that describes the landscape and the cultural scape of people in Illinois at one time, another time. A remarkable artist book that accompanied an exhibition, but stands by itself as a very valid work of art. \$7.00

Sea [See]: The Salton Sea viewed through a pinhole by Sarah Peltzie tries to image a modern scene that has a past, sometimes creating a phantom through a quiet gesture. These black and white images do indeed create those phantoms upon occasion, sometimes the environs, the buildings, the ruins, the life around the Salton Sea. A haunting book. \$16.00

Details: Close to Open: Selections from the Swarthmore College Peace Collection by Buzz Spector (Swarthmore, Swarthmore College, 2001, n.p.) is an artist book posing as an exhibition catalog, 109 details of hands from 90 photographs in the Swarthmore College Peace Collection arranged in sequence from the most tightly clenched fist to the most opened hand. A conceptual piece that seems to ring true in these times of clenched fists and peace signs. Available from Swarthmore College Peace Collection, or <http://www.swarthmore.edu/Library/peace/>

MAIL ART PUBLICATION

Mail 4 F.U.N. is a mail art box of the Funtastic United Nations in a limited edition of 500 copies, including 22 color

postcards, 4 mini-sheets with 8 artistamps each, 1 rubberstamp and more oddities from the imaginary worlds of: V. Baroni, B. Blurr, E. Biancuzzi, G. Calderini, S. Cascavilla, P. Ciani, R. Cohen, P. Echaurren, J.W. Felter, J. Held Jr., L. Kremonj Baroncinj & B. Pilja Merew, P. Kustermann, R. Maggi, Pinky, P. Pissier, Princess Petal, Prof. Bad Trip, Pygoya, M. Rujiters, R. Stasick, The Sticker Dud and Tartarugo.

The cost for one copy if \$25.00 postage included worldwide. Send cash in registered envelope or International Postal Money Order payable to: Vittore Baroni, via Battisti 339, 55049 Viareggio, Italy. Baroniv@ats.it or <http://www.aaa-edizioni.it>



EXHIBITION CATALOGS

The Maker's Hand: Twenty Books by Ken Campbell is a kind of retrospective of the remarkable bookworks of Ken Campbell. Accompanied by an essay by Marcia Reed of the Getty, this beautiful full-sized catalog of 20 bookworks which Campbell has created between 1975 and 2000. Most of the books are letterpress and were seen at the Herzo August Bibliothek in Wolfenbüttel, Germany in the spring of 2001.

As indicated by Reed and the artist himself, the books are extensions of the artist—each one being a “chapter” in the texture of the whole. Campbell does most of his problem-solving while producing these remarkable books, thus this catalog gives insight into the physical and mental processes deployed during each title's gestation. He deals with the history of art, religion, mythology and architecture. His words and images coalesce into perfect harmony after creating fugues of some of the pieces so that when they finish, they are indeed whole again.

Each book is accompanied by a description written by the artist/bookmaker and as such, the process, the intent, and the product are fully explained. He supplements the account with poems, texts and images. The 70 full-color photographs were taken by the artist and they are indeed remarkable for anyone who has not even seen the books. The catalog ends with a chronology and the indication that a new book about America is the next project. We all look forward to that book.

ken.campbell@ukonline.co.uk

Paperback ISBN 0-9540102-0-5 £35

Hardback ISBN 0-9540102-1-3 £100 (edition of 100 signed and numbered by the artist)

SOUND ART

Joe Jones: Back and Forth Exhibition Sound is the resurrection of a performance on 31 August 1985 at Galerie Hundertmark. . Edition of 500, price 19.50 Euro from Hundertmark, Brusseler Strasse 29, D-50674 Koln, Germany.

Henri Chopin: La Peur & Co (1958-1979) in an edition of 400 is available from Galerie und Edition Hundertmark, Brusseler Str. 29, D-50674 Koln, Germany. 19.50 Euro. For information, info@hundertmark-gallery.com