

FROM THE EDITOR

Well, my dear readers, it has been quite a period in all our lives—whether you were in New York or Washington, or elsewhere. I happen to have been in New York City and saw it all with my own eyes. As a result, you can read about it here in this newsletter. I could not sleep the first night I was home in Santa Monica, so I wrote it out (my memories, that is) and sent it out to about 150 people. It was catharsis for me, and helped me through the five weeks of nightmares. At long last, while staying in Chicago to take down my show Lake Michigan offered up her arms and took my nightmares away.

I remember reading a Letter to the Editor in the New York Times after 9/11 from the granddaughter of Minoru Yamasaki, the chief architect for the World Trade Center, telling us that she hopes that architects will learn from this tragedy. She was glad her grandfather was not alive to see those towers crumble, for it would have devastated him, as it has devastated all of us. She intimated that perhaps buildings of 1,350 feet do not make sense anymore. But who is to know?

As I write this, in the fifth week of writing this newsletter, it seems to me that Umbrella is reaching a milestone of 25 years (a year from now) and we are going into our 25th volume, but rather than a milestone, the news has become a millstone. There is so much information coming in, that selection is difficult and it takes a very long time to do this newsletter each time. Yet most of you replied that you want hard copy, and so it goes for at least one more year. Then we shall see. If any of you have any ideas for a Silver Anniversary celebration, please send it along.

We are featuring in this issue an interview with Ben Patterson, a Fluxist artist known in the world of music as well. It was a fortuitous meeting in Los Angeles that triggered this interview, and I hope you realize how resilient and important Fluxist artists have been to my life and to yours in the art world. We also have a wonderful article by Howard Munson about teaching book arts in Romania.

We also are inviting all Book Artists to participate in the Alexandrian Library's opening in September 2002. You must read the whole article and respond by February 2002 with your c.v., slides, etc. I really want to see book artists from all over the world with the variety of media to

participate and make a lasting contribution to the first shows in the Library. And if you can go over to Alexandria to celebrate its opening, perhaps participation in the workshops, symposia, etc. will have a lasting impression on your work and your lives. Be sure to look under Artist Book News for details.

In addition, I must tell you that the United States Post Office has surprised us with three raises in costs, so that I have had to concede and have raised the individual subscriber's subscription rates for North America to \$20.00. Be sure to make a note of this and send in your subscription renewal immediately, so I do not have to spend money reminding you to re-subscribe. And why not give a gift of a subscription to Umbrella to friends in the mail art, book art and art world? It is very nominally priced, and full of information. For our foreign subscribers, there is another way of paying for your subscription by using e-mail and Paypal. Follow the instructions and make it easy for you and for me.

I wish you all a New Year full of health and peace. I think it will take some time to have happiness. And remember your fellow human beings each day in some way. We have much to be thankful for and we should share that feeling with our family and friends. Perhaps art can heal, but common courtesy and a feeling for others makes one's day a bit more fulfilling. Yours for better books and better people!

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Vol. 24, no.3/4(December 2001)

Umbrella is published irregularly by Umbrella Associates, and the editor is Judith A. Hoffberg, P.O. Box 3640, Santa Monica, CA 90408. Phone: (310)399-1146, fax: (310)399-5070. E-mail: umbrella@ix.netcom.com. Website is: <http://www.colophon.com/journal> Subscriptions are available for the calendar year only, payable in American currency. You can pay by Paypal as well.

Cover: Contribution from Stefan Bartkowiak in Hamburg, Germany. An old German print.