

PROFILE: Bar de l'Aventure

Sounds like a seedy joint from the 30s, but instead Bar de l'Aventure is a gallery, just above Pigalle and below the great white Sacre Coeur beloved of hordes of tourists, an art gallery that functions more like an artists' space than a commercial gallery. Launched in 1979, the "bar" is still there, but it now serves as an office, and the gallery is full of books: sculptural books, object books, real books—as well as art shows each month.

The woman behind this is Caroline Corre, who has energy, dynamic ideas, and executes them with great zest. She has informal dinners open to the public in the gallery (between 40 and 50 people at a time). Musicians come and play, and occasionally a mime. She does tours of artists' studios in Montmartre, which end with a dinner in the gallery. Her exhibitions of books are phenomenal, always based on a theme. In 1980, for instance, she devoted a show to humorous books; books were cut up, cooked, painted over and re-shaped.

Now these happenings which occur come from a woman who has a chateau in her past, the 18th century Chateau de Verderonne, about 60 kilometres north of Paris, which belonged to her mother's family, and in 1965, she was given run of the grounds and outbuildings (including a small 18th century theater). In 1969, she made it into something like a cultural center, with music, exhibitions, theater and dance. She orchestrated grand "fêtes", one of which incorporates music, painting, dance, ritual, mime, food and drink. People would pay to come in, and then everything would be free.

She entertained this idea with a group of artists who pooled their funds and prayed that people would come and that it would not rain. The first "fête" on November 2, 1969 brought 500 people together, with the theme of death, as it was the holy Day of the Dead. An environment was created on the grounds by such artists as Miralda, Xifra, Dorothee Selz, Rabascall, and special music was composed. Black and Mauve, the dominant colors, were even seen in the clouds of mauve spun sugar handed out, and there was much poetic ceremony. Over the next two years, until June 1971, the audiences numbered about 4,000 with five more such ventures.

The last fête at Verderonne was to celebrate the summer solstice, lasting two days and one night, with musicians, fire-eaters, dance ensembles, four horsemen, brandishing torches for a huge bonfire, while the horses reared. Once the fires got going, the dancers began throwing their clothes into it. The is the kind of woman Caroline Corre is, passionate, exciting, with a great sense of organization.

What Corre has done in much smaller quarters than the chateau is to develop a clientele (either the Beaubourg or the French state has bought something after each one of her exhibitions). She not only shows bookworks in her gallery, but has staged a show at the 2d Salon du Livre at the Grand Palais in March 1982, and has done so again this year at the Grand Palais with American artists' books, and later brought them to her gallery, where the show closed on 18 May.

Good food, good books, good artists. Not a bad combination for this dynamic Caroline Corre. Bar de l'Aventure, 53 rue Berthe, 75018 Paris.

4 TAXIS: an international magazine

4 Taxis, an unusual magazine, has attempted to be an international network of artists. Begun in 1978 in a run of 400, **4 Taxis** reflects the artists who run it, because they love to travel, and the magazine reflects their indepth investigations in a place. For instance, when Danielle Colomine had the chance to live in Berlin for 6 months, that changed the magazine into visual journalism. With contributions from artists in English, Catalan, French, German and Spanish, the fame of the magazine has spread.

The artists conceived having three publications, which include **4 Taxis**, the result of a long immersion in a city, a true magazine; **Perpendiculaire**, which tends to be a more conceptual 16 pages; and then the **Circulaire**, the four-page leaflet which looks like a newsletter sent free to subscribers.

In Los Angeles for the past 9 months, Danielle Colomine and Michel Aphenbero will be coming out with the Los Angeles edition of **4 Taxis** as part of the *LAICA Journal* in the fall of 1983. This summer, the **Circulaire** will be published in Bordeaux, a small issue, published by the four people who run **4 Taxis**, a non-profit association created for international cultural exchanges. They work as teachers or at odd jobs, and all their money goes into the magazine. Even with sales and subscriptions, they don't break even, but their aim is to reach their readers, attempting to break new frontiers in art. They aim for a luxury look for the magazine, but what is more important is the rhythm of work: every 6 months, a magazine; every 3 months, the **Perpendiculaire**; and in one day, the **Circulaire**. Watch for the little man with hat and suitcase, always on the road, ready to learn about new art and always anxious to tell the world in **4 Taxis**.

Subscriptions to **4 Taxis** are 1100 francs for France, 130 francs for Europe, 150 US & other countries. Send to Association 4 Taxis, 3 rue Canihac, 33000 Bordeaux, France.

