

PROFILE: harry ruhé, amsterdam

Galerie A of Harry Ruhe in Amsterdam is right in the center of town, comfortable and full of light, and packed with artists' books, records and tapes. Ruhe, interviewed by **Umbrella** last summer, has seen the trends of the times change from catalogs in museums to books by artists, published not even for exhibitions but as a publications program. This is evident at the Abbeuseum in Eindhoven, for instance.

From the early 60s, he saw the bookworks by Jiri Kolar develop into the publications by the Fluxus artists, Lamont Young and George Brecht, Endre Tot and then the books of Ed Ruscha, along with the Beau Geste Press and more. But these books were always of a marginal character. Issues were not of the essence, but merely book formats took over. Now things are different, according to Ruhe, for instead of the small press and poetry works, the unofficial works of Fluxus and the East European samizdat, we get well known artists being published by museums in book format, such as Clemente, Lupertz, Penke and more, with Walther Konig as the official distributor of these select bookworks.

Ruhe, because of his many years dealing with bookworks, helps build collections for museums and collectors, as a special service. For example, the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam

now has made an effort to develop a collection thanks to Ruhe, while the Groningen Museum in northern Holland started in the 60s and continued in the 70s but does not seem to be collecting assiduously as before. According to Ruhe, artists' books as a fashion are finished. Today, as in the 70s, artists are exploring new formats, and doing new things in book format, such as Anselm Kiefer and Francesco Clemente, but there is still not as much interest for the self-published book as 10 years ago. The challenge now is to make books beautiful.

Ruhe services libraries all over the world, helping them to find bookworks, filling in gaps in collections, and enjoying putting on exhibitions of artists' books, e.g. the bookworks by documenta artists which he did last summer during the same period as documenta 7 in Kassel. His own personal collection exceeds the imagination, for his sense of timing has been remarkable, and the collection is one of the best in the world. Ruhe believes the bookworks also should involve records and cassettes by artists, and oftentimes multiples. He sells all of these in his gallery and shop. So if you wish to find something, write Harry Ruhe, Galerie A, Kleine Gartmanplantsoen 12, 1017 RR Amsterdam, The Netherlands. He answers his mail right away!

ART PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Al Nodal, Washington Project for the Art's Executive Director for the past five years, is moving to Los Angeles to become head of the gallery of Otis/Parsons School of Art, effective in September 1983.

Keith Haring is now doing illustrations for the op-ed pages of the New York Times as well as covers for trade books.

Les Levine presented New Mass Media Projects, including billboards, photographs and drawings in N.A.M.E. Gallery in Chicago during the month of April. In June he appears at San Francisco Institute of Art for a lecture, and will be having a show at 80 Langton Street, through 25 June.

Alice Whitman Leeds is one of the artists in The Chair Show at BACA's DCC, 111 Willoughby St. in Brooklyn through 25 June.

Richard Kostelanetz' multimedia exhibition Epiphanies (Single-Sentence Stories) appeared at Freedman Gallery on 19 April and the exhibition of Epiphanies cards stayed through 6 May. Freedman Gallery is part of Albright College in Reading, PA. Kostelanetz has a soon-to-be-released record called *Invocations* out on Folkways.

James Hugunin (Los Angeles), **Max Kozloff** (New York) and **Maren Stange** (Washington, DC) were recently awarded the 1983 Reva and David Logan Grants in support of New Writing on Photography, sponsored by the Photographic Resource Center in Boston, and supported by the Logan Foundation and the NEA.

Louise Nevelson was recently awarded the Gold Medal in Sculpture from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters. At the same time, Representative **Sidney R. Yates**, Democrat of Illinois, was given the Award for Distin-

guished Service to the Arts. **Berenice Abbott** and **Ansel Adams** were also inducted as American honorary members into the Institute.

Frank Gehry, the Venice, California-based architect, was selected by the American Academy as the 1983 winner of the Arnold W. Brunner Memorial Prize in Architecture.

Donna Henes has recently held Elegant Evenings for Exceptional Women during the spring season of her Spider Salon in New York City.

John Carson, Irish performance and mail artist, recently appeared in Live Irish Art performance series at the Franklin Furnace in early April. On 14 May he made a farewell performance at Beyond Baroque in Venice, California, before departing for England after two years in the United States.

Kenneth Clark, art historian, museum director, author and narrator of the television series Civilization, died recently in England at the age of 79.

Neil Hoffman, dean of Otis Art Institute of Parsons School of Design, has resigned, effective 1 July, to become president of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

S. Dillon Ripley, who has headed the Smithsonian Institution during a nearly 20-year period of growth in which it has become one of the pre-eminent cultural organizations in the world, has announced he will retire in September 1984.

I.M. Pei was awarded the \$100,000 Pritzker Architecture prize.

James A. J. Van Der Zee, whose portraits of famous black Americans won him worldwide acclaim, died at the age of 96 just hours after receiving an honorary degree at Howard University.