

THE URUGUAYAN MAIL ARTISTS ASSOCIATION invite you to send your works to the international Mail Art Project, NICARAGUA: PATRIA O MUERTE. No fees, no jury, no rejections (only works on the theme), no returns, no limits. All entries must be received by 15 July 1985. All contributors will receive a catalog. Send to:

AUAC

Lindoro Forteza 2713/3

Montevideo, Uruguay

Against the US blockade and intervention in NICARAGUA, Homage to the 6th anniversary Sandinista Revolution, for peace in Central America, and for human right in all the world. This exhibition is sponsored by the Uruguayan Support Committee of Nicaragua.

## BOOK REVIEWS

MY WORLD OF BIBLIOPHILE BINDING by Kerstin Tini Miura (Univ. of California Press, 1984) is a large, purplish book with pink endpapers. After a foreword by Bernard Middleton, the book opens with a fine overview of continental bookbinding processes used by Mrs. Miura. Some British-trained binders are certain to quarrel (over drinks) about the appropriateness of stacked headband cores or crepe paper as a spine lining material.

Mrs. Miura is a tremendously skilled paper decorator. Her process and color control result in very inspirational papers. Her use of these papers on the exteriors of books is only slightly marred by the block of color from the spine leather and fore-edge strips. Even less successful is THE BRIDGE OF SAN LUIS REY with its muddy and chaotic watercolor paper cover versus the yellow, black and blue spine--no restraint here! The tooled onlay, being her most frequently used device for dissecting space, generally doesn't work. Shapes are awkward and look too often to have been made to fit the tool.

My favorite book is LA FEE AUX MIETTES (The Crumbs Fairy). Photographed on a plain background the book is more in harmony with itself: the sprays of stars drift through the lima bean shapes and do not overpower. It's a winner!

Although I disagree with the images and

their relevance to the texts which they wrap, I like Kerstin Miura's book. It is a lavish work from a prolific binder.

--Timothy C. Ely

FIVE PELICANS FISH by Ruth Hayes is another in this prolific flipbook and filmmaker's list of message books about the environment and ecology. This book is a tribute to the survival of this bird as a species and to the awareness which will make the care of our environment a ritual practice. You are instructed to flip the book back to front and you watch the graceful dives into the sea of these remarkable birds. \$3.95 from Random Motion Co., 159 Western Ave.W. #484, Seattle, WA 98119.

WINDMILLS is the first in a series of Breakdancing Flipbooks by Kinegraphics & The Graphic Medium, 1 Sutter, Suite 703, San Francisco, CA 94104. The breakdancing is exciting in its rolls and twirls, and the price was right. \$3.50

SLEEP AND DREAM by Duane Michals (New York, Lustrum Press, 1984, \$11.95) is a quiet book, full of poems and photographs by this famous photographer who stirs the imagination both with his words and his mystical photos. There is pathos and humor, mystical qualities of words and images, and much to ponder after you read the book, to lull you to think rather than to sleep.

WHAT SHALL WE DO WITHOUT US? The Voice and Vision of Kenneth Patchen (San Francisco, Sierra Club Books, 1984, \$12.95 paper, \$25.00 cloth) rediscovers for us the painted poems of this energetic poet who wove a stunning tapestry of form and color with these 37 superbly printed paintings. These picture poems radiate vibrancy and life the poet put into them in glowing color.

For someone who had been in pain most of his creative life, these poems sing of life and joy and hatred of hypocrisy and war, never of bitterness and pain. As indicated in the afterword by James Laughlin, the works are not illustrated writings, but "the fusion of words and pictures into an integrated 'poem.'" To be sure, the originals have a three-dimensionality not to be experienced on the printed page, but these are extremely wonderful reproductions. The originals are

housed at the University of California Santa Cruz Special Collections Department of the Library.

I AM SIAM by Paul Rutkovsky (printed at VSW Press in Rochester) tells of one person, a Thai, born in 1960s, who has five personalities and is caught between the customs of the East and West. There are a series of symbols which lead the reader through the book in order to understand the feelings of the character at the time, whether it is too much or too little east or west. As you read the book, there are really two levels of understanding: one is the narrator's (statements under each photo) and the other is the coded message which you interpret through symbols. Mood changes, varying feelings are picked up by the codes. There is a two-pronged interpretation here--one of political and social documentation, the other a semi-humorous coded interpretation of the author, who is a politically and socially-aware artist who is head of the Papier Mache Video Institute, head of Doo Daa Florida, and publisher of that newspaper DOO DAA FLORIDA. \$7.95 from 227 Westridge Dr., Tallahassee, FL 32304.

DIGIT by Don Corman, whose previous book COMFORT AND CLEANLINESS, A Guide to the Hospitality Industry, also included photographs, is a group of found and donated "rejected" photos which Corman is using to "capture the world around us" as Kodak advertises. These photos, in color, are used in a new narrative context, where digit (the finger of the photographer) plays a vital part in creating surrealist juxtapositions and chance actions of Digits, whose statistics are included as an afterword by the artist. This is truly a photographer's bookwork, one in which the tongue-in-cheek rejected photographs become animated and far from mundane. Digits do get around, in fact all over the world, and this would seem to be the first tribute to digits and rejected photos all over the universe. Delightful book from Don Corman, #205-804 18 Ave. S.W., Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2T 0G8. \$9.50 (Canadian)

MADONNA + CHILD by Nancy Linn (New York, A. White Publishing Co., 255 Bowery, New

York 10002) contains 184 photographs which contain portraits taken of young mothers and their babies at Bellevue Hospital.

In developing this iconography of motherhood by juxtaposing the title of the book, which is one of most venerated themes in art history with the contemporary teenage motherhood phenomenon, Linn goes beyond the social context of the original portraits, which is to foster positive self-images in the mothers.

Because the many photographs seem the same, the viewer tries to find distinctive characteristics about each picture and person depicted, thus delineating the importance of each life involved. The dates which underline each photo also allow us to trace a time-line with memory and vision tracks throughout the book. Through Linn's camera lens, we learn to develop a feeling for the differences and variations that accrue to produce what we see as great change, and she trains our eye. A sensitive book. \$15.00 from Printed Matter, 7 Lispenard, NYC 10013.

GREAT WALLS OF CHINA with photographs by Franc Palaia is a photographic survey of walls, murals, signs and billboards of contemporary China taken by this recent Prix de Rome winner in a recent trek through China. First produced in a color Xerox edition, GREAT WALLS OF CHINA now appears in full color, freeze frames of a segment of change in Chinese life, a unique juxtaposition of times and cultures, of fashions and futures, with western commerce staring through the veils into more than electric appliances, glamorized movie stars or cigarette symbols. Palaia sees beyond the wall to the significance of change in a most traditional society. With an introduction by Richard Haas and a foreword by Peter Frank, all translated into Chinese as well, two cultures which were for so long antithetical, now merge through the drop cloths of the Chinese, walls with a message beyond words. \$9.95 from Eastview Editions, P.O. Box 783, Westfield, NJ 07091.

SIGNS is a book that has accompanied an exhibition at the New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York City. Guest curated by Ned Rifkin, the exhibition included original graphic projects by Gary Falk, Ken Feingold, Marian Gal-

czenski, Jenny Holzer, John Knight, MANUAL, Matt Mullican, Tad Savinar, and Al Souza. In his incisive introduction, Rifkin cites this more distant, neutral, and intellectual approach to the same kind of neoexpressionism. He cites the fact that the artists have practiced what Laurie Anderson paraphrased from Wittgenstein: "If you can't talk about it, point to it." The book is successful in that it succeeds to point the way even if you haven't seen the show. \$4.00 from the New Museum, 583 Broadway, New York, NY 10012.

EXIT ART in New York City not only sponsors exciting events, including performances, but also publishes exhibition catalogs which are works of art. This is largely because the artist in question is involved in the design and production of that catalog. Four new publications are:

PEDRO LUJAN: WOOD SCULPTURE, Feb. 14-March 23, 1985. Printed on a grained paper cover, a "bird" is drawn, seeming like a Bird of Paradise. Within is an interview with Jeanette Ingberman and inserted black and white illustrations of the sculpture. Chronology & bibliography. \$5.00

MELISSA MEYER: PAINTINGS & DRAWINGS 1980-1984, Nov. 16- Dec. 29, 1984. Essay by Stephen Westfall. 2-color cover, which is poster for show. Portfolio of plates, chronology & bibliography. \$5.00

SANTA COMIDA (Holy Food), Antonio Miralda, Dec. - February 1985 at El Museo del Barrio in New York City. Miami Dade Community College Art Gallery in March 1985. Text and research by John Mason. This is a remarkable catalog printed on multi-colored newsprint, with inserted tipped-in photos, a saga of black-eyed peas, potatoes, peanuts, yams, bananas and the like by an artist who works with food as his medium. Old and New World connotations in an installation involving six African powers. The catalog is a mind-blower! We only wish the show could have traveled to other venues. \$10.00

MICHAEL GITLIN: SCULPTURES, DRAWINGS 1982-1985. May 2-June 1, 1985. Essay by Steven Henry Madoff. Chronology & bibliography. \$7.00.

All of these can be ordered from Exit Art, 5/8 Broadway, New York, NY 10012.

TIME MAGAZINE by Madam X is a miniature version of TIME magazine published by this most mystical of artists, including sage comments on the World, Science, Religion, Business, the Nation. Under LIVING, we have comments such as "War". There was so much war today that no one even noticed. And there is a whole section on "Time" which certainly allows the reader a great deal of food for thought. In "Living Time", a radical thinker now claims that time grows. Send \$5.00 to Madam X, P.O. Box 30784, Los Angeles, CA 90030 and get the New TIME.

BEHIND MY OWN DISGUISE by Karen Holden is a translucent silkscreened book in 36 colors which allows the images on each page to enrich each other. These "leaves" unpeel making the book almost a performance piece. The mask which is removed from the book at the outset allows you to open the book like a puzzle, leading you through the labyrinth until the last page. \$40.00 plus \$1.50 for shipping and handling from Red Dress Press, P.O. Box 291098, Los Angeles, CA 90029.

PHANTASIEBILDUNG BY David Merritt is an intensely interesting book printed on translucent pages. The left side pages have the narration; the right side has line drawings which penetrate and elide with the other pages, making one's depth perception penetrate a multitude of images on many pages. We are definitely in a vehicle which has no ground, and thus the words echo this feeling of the overcoming of our reality into fantasy or wishes, in which we are navigated by a "giant" and the projections which are presented to us help disintegrate the boundaries of the familiar. Fragments re-organize themselves into new arrangements which become familiar to us. This book has visual ramifications which not only appeal to our vision, but also to our psyche. \$5.00 from David Merritt, 344 Central Ave., Upper, London, Ont., Canada N6B 2E2.

WILD HISTORY, an anthology of new writing compiled for Tanam Press by Richard Prince, reflects the multimedia artists of the 1980s, those who

cross the confines of painting, graphics, bookmaking, performance, and do all of the above and more. Here we have contributions from Tina Lhotsky, Reese Williams, Anne Turyn, Constance DeJong, Peter Nadin, Roberta Allen, Kathy Acker, Richard Prince, Robin Winters, Lynne Tillman, Paul McMahon, Spalding Gray and more. Great summer reading. \$10.95 postpaid from Tanam Press, 40 White St., New York, NY 10013.

YOUNG MASTERS AND MISSES by Telfer Stokes is the last in a series of bookworks published by the Museum of Modern Art in New York. This master bookmaker juxtaposes photographs taken in Italy with text pages which are a series of digressions and statements. Halfway through the book, photographs of small objects such as pencils, pens and paperclips are introduced, creating a dialectic between the illusion on the page as a window onto the world and the page as a surface. Eventually, there is a breakdown of the texts, while a blob of printer's ink spreads to obliterate words as well as visual images. \$10.00 paperback from MOMA, 11 West 53rd St., New York, NY 10019.

Natalie d'Arbeloff is publishing a series of booklets under the title, SMALL PACKAGES, which is what good things come in. Number One appeared in August 1984.

AUGUSTINE ESCAPES tells how Augustine seeks to escape from her mundane life.

AUGUSTINE FINDS THE ULTIMATE DETERRENT is the second in this series of 6 issues to which one can subscribe. Prices have changed since January 1985, but write to NDA Press, 6 Cliff Villas, London NW1 9AL, and you'll be surprised how small the price is for these SMALL PACKAGES.

THE ART OF SPECTACLE accompanies a series of performances presented by Some Serious Business, LACE and UCLA Center for the Arts. Written by Jacki Apple, the narratives and interviews with each of the performers is certainly more than expository prose, and thus I recommend this book highly as a bookwork. Available from LACE, 240 S. Broadway, Los Angeles 90012.

BURNING BOOKS is a new publisher involved with bookworks:

THE TIME IS NOW by Melody Sumner is now in its second edition. This spiral-bound stiff papered book under bright yellow covers has unnumbered pages which are separated by index-tab dividers bearing a new set of symbols which are explained in a glossary which further expands their ambiguity, allowing the reader to unfold their significance. But it is the writing that is so wonderful, pushing you onward, evocative of meanings which usually escape normal communication, because they are not verbal but conceptual. Stories that are more than stories, often poignant, but always stimulating. The book was designed intentionally to encourage the reader to read it again, in any way that seems appropriate --in toto, in part, nonsequentially, and so it is serendipity. \$10.00

BARBARA GOLDEN'S HOME COOKING is a multimedia book of recipes, songs and poems by this former Montreal housewife now transported to the Bay area. There are wonderful illustrations, wild songs to sing while you're cooking, helpful hints, and great recipes. The spiral binding makes it convenient to cook by. Yes, "Barbara knows what's important: food, sex, and music." \$8.50

ONE OF ONE by Sheila Davies and Patrick James Sumner is a book in magazine format combining the words and images of the two in 13 stories, and 6 emotional/alchemy diagrams. The book requires a lot from the reader, but it is well worth the effort, leading to the three emotions: Rapture, Shame or Longing. At the foot of every page is a continuous listing of slang terms for women. \$9.50.

All the above are distributed by Small Press Distribution in Berkeley, California or from Burning Books, 3608 Lake Shore Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610. Add \$1.00 for each book to cover postage.

ACT AGAINST NUCLEAR WAR by Sarah Sutro is a powerful indictment of nuclear war using color Xerox. The book's words are hard and are illustrated with parts of hardware or rusted tools. "Throw a wrench in the works, Say No." A deeply felt cry for sanity done only in an aesthetic way. \$10 from Sarah Sutro, 20 Vernon St., Somerville, MA 02145.

SOFT GEOMETRY by Geza Perneczky is a dynamic contribution to bookworks, because it attempts to show in facsimile his linear pictures and large pieces and succeeds in a totally different dimension. The original canvases are sometimes 10 metres long, or they are connected with time. This book has black and white Xerox photos in maximum Xerox size, as well as colored original signed paintings interspersed. The paintings are musical scores on rolls like wallpaper. Some have rubberstamps, but they all have rhythm. Write to Geza at Grosse Witschgasse 3-5, D 5000 Koln 1, West Germany. These are limited editions of 200.

Ric Haynes has a series of little books which are at once beautifully made and funny too:

MARXIST PRESIDENTS which define the presidents as "Marx-ist" by their Groucho Marx glasses and nose in line drawings. \$4.50

UNTITLED which takes you to other worlds and universes. \$3.50

AQUATIC YOGA WITH DANGEROUS FOODS \$4.50  
A fish-headed man performing yoga with junk food.

HOW TO DECORATE A STOREFRONT WINDOW \$5.00  
The artist didn't want to decorate a window so he had other people do it.

All of these are available from Printed Matter.

Bea Licata produces graphically interesting little books:

BLACK & GRAPH are black ink images on graph ground. \$3.00

RED & GRAPH also are red ink images which are more intense due to the developed use of the graph ground, words, etc. \$3.50

SOUND VISUALIZATIONS is the culmination of this sound and video artist, who visualizes sound graphically. This book is sound poetry without words, visualizations that lead you beyond the page to visual music. \$10.00. Available from Printed Matter.

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