

ARTISTS' BOOKS: news and reviews

NEWS

Stephen Moore has created a Catalog as a tabloid in exhibition format which becomes a biography, chronology and bibliography, as well as a sales catalog. Available for \$1.00, P.O. Box 187, San Jose, CA 95103.

- A new bookshop has been opened by Nexus Gallery, 608 Forrest Rd., N.E., Atlanta, GA 30312. During the month of March, there is an exhibition of books from Printed Matter, Chicago Books, etc. For more information, write to them for purchasing policies.
- A Checklist is for sale at the Detroit Institute of Arts of their recent exhibition on Books.
- Brian Lane has published a catalog of his printed works available from his 1978 production. Included is a subscription for a series of folded cards and wallets of cards based on a subject: *The Gourmet Pocket Guide to Natural History, The Fog Log Collection of Thoughts on Fog, Bonnie and Clyde Stuff*, etc. For the catalog, write to Brian Lane, 162 Wyndham Rd., London SE5 OUB, England.
- *Artists' Books, Cento Libri d'Artisti Cento*, an exhibition and catalog curated by Maurizio Nannucci and Fulvio Salvadori at Palazzo Strozzi in Florence in late 1978 is documented in a catalog now available from Archivio Exempla, Via Marsala 4, Firenze (concrete and visual poetry, artists' books, records and audio works) and at the Zona Archive, Box 1486, Firenze (small press scene, postcards, intermedia). The exhibition will be shown again in May/June, in a more complete form, so that readers of *Umbrella* are invited to send their books to Zona, Box 1486, Firenze to arrive no later than the end of April for inclusion in the exhibition. The catalog includes a checklist, an outstanding bibliography of exhibitions from 1969 on and an essay by Alessandro Vezzosi.

■ For the information of our readers, **Other Books & So** has changed its address and now serves as an archive for artists' books, organizing exhibitions in various countries of Europe. Ulises Carrion can now be reached at Other Books & So, Ten Katestraat 53, Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Telephone is 020-121233.

The shop called Other Books & So is now being managed by Karen Kvermenes, an American, and has changed its name to **Art Something**, 259 Herengracht, Amsterdam. Art Something opened on 4 March with an exhibition of Helfried Hagenberg's *Psaligraphic Sculptures*. Karen writes that she will try to arouse new interest in artists' books and materials by planning more of a multimedia environment. Video, polaroid photography, happenings are in the offing. Readers are asked to contribute to the new shop either with works or with contributions to keep it going.

■ Irene Dogmatic has *Star Spangled Boners* available for \$1.00 from 39 Sycamore St., San Francisco, CA 94110. She also offers *Insult* for the insulting price of \$1.00 from Irene Dogmatic at the same address above.

■ Maurizio Nannucci presents a new series of publications called *Rottenfollen/fogli. di Zona*, which include works by Finlay, Nannucci, Gette, Lax, with future issues by Alvaro, Becattini, Chiari, Ben, Cage, Filliou, Higgins. The first four are available for \$3.00 from Zona, Box 1486, Firenze.

■ Senoj, a non-profit organization, has recently completed publication of *Beo*, an artist's book, the concluding product of a series of projects, including exhibitions, workshops, artworks, and correspondence instigated or performed by Ben Davis, George Hemphill, and Sarah Schroth. The environment as artwork enters when it leaves the studio and the making of an artist's book formed the basis for dialog among the three artists. *Beo* is the resulting visual and verbal conversation. Printed in a limited edition of 500, the signed copies sell for \$10.00. Available from Senoj, 1180 Holly St., Atlanta, GA 30318. Add \$.75 for postage and handling and \$1.00 for foreign airmail.

REVIEWS

Alpha, Trans, Chung: A Photographic Model: Semiotics, Film and Interpretation by Peter d'Agostino has recently been published by the University Art Galleries, Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. Included are photographs of Alpha, Trans and Chung, a condensation of films made by the artist. In the appendices are essays by Rae Blakeney, "Order and Disorder in Film and Fiction" by Alain Robbe-Grillet; *Semiotics & Film: From an Interview with Umberto Eco* by William Luh and commentaries by critics about d'Agostino's work. A chronology, a list of publications, articles and reviews are also included as well as a bibliography by Lew Thomas.

Distributed by NFS Press, P.O. Box 31040, San Francisco, CA 94131 for \$7.95.

Anita's Revenge by Lyn Mandelbaum is a story in photographs with lines of dialogue and explanation which haunt the reader and allow one to reverse the order, explore and reshape the story with time. Pieces of a puzzle that you put together are the essence of the finely printed book. Self-published, the book is available from Printed Matter or from Artworks, P.O. Box 3903, Glendale, CA 91201.

Lichtbilder by Gregor Cürten is a book of 11 photographs taken of the artist representing Kupka, Hygens, Caravaggio, Rembrandt, Magritte, Sir Isaac Newton, Van Gogh, Gombrich and others. Published in Cologne, these are delightful transformations with light and shadow. \$14.00 from Artworks, P.O. Box 3903, Glendale, CA 91201.

Heads and Bodies: A Unique Collection printed in an edition of 25 by Paula Hocks is a handsomely produced fine book casebound and printed in offset on a matte-finish paper. Many of the heads are of famous people, reproduced and added to with poetry and statements, as well as the author's addition of handcoloring to several pages. The tone of the book is precious and this limited edition is costly, but well worth it. Published by the Running Women Press in 1978, the book is available for \$50.00 from the author, 1340 Canyon Rd., Santa Fe, NM 87501 or from Artworks, P.O. Box 3903, Glendale, CA 91201.

Paweł Petasz of Poland has created two marvelous hand-stamped rubber printed books, as he puts it. The first, called *Pieces from Biography of Joe Contestator*, "pressed with coquetry" with poems by Petasz & Mirosław Wrobel is a magnificent work of art made with rubber stamps made from erasers. The imagery ranges from shoes and fish to clocks, temples and multi-colored images. Using different kinds of paper and different colored inks, this limited edition of 30, handstamped by the artist with humor and satire, is available in the United States from Artworks, P.O. Box 3903, Glendale, CA 91201.

Surprisingly enough *A New and Quite Changed Edition* has just been published by the Joe Rubber Press in a limited edition of 30 using new imagery, and uniform paper of a larger size. \$5.00 also from Artworks.

A Genuine Hand-Stamped Amulets Against Unfortunate Accidents is a hilarious little book that will in fact make you laugh against all adversity. Available from Artworks for \$3.50.

Plays: Photographs by Mickey Howell is a haunting series of photographs, some of which are fold-outs which have a series of sequential photos telling a story; others are high-grained, high-contrasted photographs with a haunting performance or story behind each. Some photos are superimposed upon themselves, while others are mysterious for their subject matter. An interesting self-published book by a Michigan photographer, distributed for \$5.00 by Light Impressions, P.O. Box 3012, Rochester, NY 14614.

A Wee Bundle of Thoughts (wordworks by Ivy Sky Rutzky) is a bundle of treasures superbly and tastefully printed, with typography matched in color or contrasted perfectly with the color of the paper for each card. Packaged in a plastic zip-lock bag, the treasures pour out of this package, a buy at \$5.00. Available from Artworks, P.O. Box 3903, Glendale, CA 91201.

Abstracts: Book III by Jane Logemann is a collection of abstract drawings made specifically for this work, and a compilation of scientific "abstracts" dealing with environmental pollution and similar attacks on humans and organisms. The drawings and texts appear on alternate pages. The drawings are not presented as illustrations of the text, but rather are the result of the procedure used in making the book.

Logemann researched scientific journals and made selections for inclusion with criteria based on aesthetic sensibility. The idea was to "collage" the texts with the drawings, and to create a synthesis of the attitude dominating the selection and drawing process.

Available for \$3.00 plus postage and handling from Jane Logemann, 35 Bond St., New York, NY 10012, Printed Matter and Jaap Rietman in New York City, and from Artworks, P.O. Box 3903, Glendale, CA 91201.

On Subjectivity by Antonio Muntadas was the outgrowth of a project by Muntadas, a recent fellow at the M.I.T. Center for Advanced Visual Studies.

Basically, the project is a study of information—how it is communicated, presented through the media, and finally

interpreted. Using photography and video, Muntadas explores the awareness of the "invisible mechanism: of communication as it occurs in the public context." Distinctions are made between perception and comprehension.

The book is an outgrowth of Muntadas' selection of 50 photographs from *The Best of Life*, a book of photographs that originally appeared in the magazine. He distributed copies of the photographs—without captions—to 250 persons who were asked to supply captions from their own understanding of the images. The book shows the results of this endeavor. The photos were selected because of their photographic value, aesthetics and communication as well as their "on the spot" news value.

The book is thus 50 photographs and their different captions. At the end of the book, the *Life* magazine captions are printed to compare with the contributors' captions. \$6.00 from MIT, Center for Advanced Visual Studies, Cambridge, MA 02139 or from Artworks.

Once and Many Times a Story, by Ellen Rothenberg, is a Jungian, symbolic book about interrelationships and communication using stick figures and the universal language of line drawings. Published in an edition of 100, this charming little book can be interpreted many ways depending upon the mood of the reader and the experience of interrelationships. \$1.00 including postage and handling from Artworks, P.O. Box 3903, Glendale, CA 91201.

Hard Edge Murder is a unique book published by hand in a limited edition of ten. Published in two parts, the first part is the book titled *Hard Edge Murder*; the second part is seven books titled *E.V.I.D.E.N.C.*, which forms all the evidence except a missing E (who pulled the trigger).



The book with its weight and thickness cut to conform to the actual size of a 38 special hand gun was formed from a photograph of the actual size 38, giving a 3-dimensional illusion of the 38 special. There is an implication of literary content, although having blank white pages evokes the viewer to participate and to possibly commit his or her own hard edge murder by killing the blankness of each page with the hard edge of pen lines. Available for \$100.00 from R. Dick Trace it, Investigation Department, P.O. Box 1495 Station A, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V6P 2P7.