

ARTISTS' BOOKS: news and reviews

NEWS

Reese Williams has a new 12-inch stereo record album called *Whirlpool*. The record, an introduction to human life on earth is a catalog of 239 fragments. It includes 116 pictures in electronic form of diagrams, equations, drawings and photographs; greetings in 60 languages; 36 short excerpts of sounds; and 27 pieces (or excerpts) of music. After exploring the outer planets, Voyager will travel indefinitely in deep space. Available by mail for \$8.98 (NY res. add .64 tax) from Tanam Press, 40 White St., NYC 10013.

■ LINE in New York City with Reese Williams as its director awarded five grants in October to Jenny Holzer, May Stevens, Nancy Blanchard, Judith Barry and Rosemary Mayer. The Holzer book is completed, and the others are in various stages of production.

In June, Reese Williams will have available free except for three stamps to cover the postage a reference booklet (approx. 32 pages long) which will have two parts: 1) An outline of design issues and the offset production process; 2) resource information of distributors, stores, printers, copyright information, bibliography, etc. This booklet will be valuable to emerging artists and to people who are doing their first book.

New grants will be available in June, if the NEA funds Line again. Grants amount to no more than \$950. Line has limited funds, so artists should understand that Line is a small service organization. Line also does not fund catalogs of documentations of work in other media; they only fund artworks conceived for the book or record format. The organization is a small, low-key volunteer organization, funding 10 to 15 books a year. The directors will probably change every three years. For more information, write to Line, Box 489, New York, NY 10013.

■ Irene Dogmatic announces *Star Spanieled Boners*, available for \$1.00 and *Insult*, also for \$1.00 from 39 Sycamore St., San Francisco, CA 94110.

■ V.E.C. Audio Exchange 2 is now available for exchange only, as is Audio Exchange 1. Both programs for two cassettes, one audio piece and a blank C60. One of the programs is in exchange for an audio piece from you. Program 2 includes Paul Carter, Klaus Groh, Tony Bradley, Rod Summers, Betty Damon, Carl Loeffler and Bill Gaglione. Eldon Garnet, John M. Bennett, Ruedi Schill, Pawel Petasz among others. In addition, VEC also offers two "audio books": 1) *Readings by the American poet, John M. Bennett*, and 2) *The Sound of an Unsound Mind* by Rod Summers. Each costs \$10 for a high quality cassette copied directly from the master recording. Write to VEC, Postbus 1051, 6201BB Maastricht, Netherlands.

■ *The Book Bus Catalog no. 2* for 1979 is now available and is jammed packed with the most enticing poetry, prose, and magazines, visual resources, anthologies, and artists' books you have ever seen. Be sure to write to The Book Bus, Visual Studies Workshop, 31 Prince St., Rochester, NY 14607 for your copy.

■ Light Impressions also has a Photographic Book Catalogue for 1979 which lists books published by the firm. Included are some back editions. Write to P.O. Box 3012, Rochester, NY 14614.

■ Assembling Press, P.O. Box 1967, Brooklyn, NY 11202 has a new catalog including its Anthologies, called *Assembling*, an international anthology of "otherwise unpublishable" creative work, books, and objects. Considered one of America's major avant-garde publishers, Assembling Press should be explored by all collectors, libraries and artists.

■ Buzz Spector, editor of *WhiteWalls*, a magazine of writings by artists, will be leading a workshop on Artists' Book Publishing at the Oxbow Artists' Camp this summer, during the first sessions 24 June - 14 July. The Oxbow Workshop 79 takes place in Saugatuck, Michigan. For more information, write to Gordon J. Dorn, 1528 Dresser Road, DeKalb, IL 60115.

REVIEWS

Heads and Bodies: A Re-collection by Paula Hocks is a book dedicated to El Lissitzky which contains a photograph of a Cocteau book, studies transient images which describe likenesses of human beings, with commentaries on each page drawn from such poets and writers as John Ashbery, Mark Strand, Camus, Satie, Garson Kanin, and many more. The book is poetic, an ethereal trip through the artist's mind, a book of recollections rather than just a gathering of a collection, each personal to the reader's memory track. The author says that "An artist's book does, by definition, attempt to realize another sort of format, paging, process, and many et ceteras. The artist's book becomes a two-way gift, of impressions gathered, changed, re-given." Many of the pages are hand-colored, items are collaged, the poetry becomes more poetic, integrated with the images. This is a moving book published by the author for Running Women Press in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Available from Artworks, P.O. Box 3903, Glendale, CA 91201 for \$50.00.

Around by Peter Downsbrough is another in this artist's exploration of visual-verbal conceptual voyages, using the book format. This one travels with your fingertips through "around and about here", with your fingers flipping the pages and exploring the many permutations of these four words with added phrases as you reach the climax of this exploration. \$4.50 from Printed Matter or from Artworks.

Continuum by Carol Stetser is a 64-page "autobiography at thirty" by the author—a visual voyage through petroglyphs and urban environments, through memory tracts that are printed in 57 Stonetone prints, accompanied by haunting statements of growth, development and evolution of the soul. The author's location in the Southwest produces some of the most beautiful photographs in the book, with comments such as "In cosmic punctuation there are no periods. . . ." and a look into the future for the artist-author. Beautifully produced by Rapaport Printing Corporation in New York, this volume sells for \$9.95 from Padma Press, P.O. Box 56, Oatman, AZ 86433.

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FIRST INTERNATIONAL DADA FESTIVAL IN 1980

Wordsand: 1967-1978 by Richard Kostelanetz explores the author's *Art with Words, Numbers and Lines, in several media*. This is an unillustrated catalog with related documents of a show generated by the Simon Fraser Gallery, Simon Fraser University in British Columbia. The book contains a series of essays by Kostelanetz which are reprinted here to show the wide range of this outstanding critic-artist-poet over a period of 11 years. Included is an interview with the artist by Diane Spodarek and a catalog of the works, a chronology and gallery exhibitions. \$3.00 from the author, 141 Wooster, New York, NY 10012.

Akira: Sun & Moon by Masumi Hayashi Keesey is a book of photographs over the past four years of the author's son and his friends. The deep connection between the mother and son are immediately communicated, but "the child" seems to be portrayed in a complex manner giving the photographs a deeper meaning than just mother, the photographer, and son, the subject. This time we see a striving for identity, much like the struggle for identity that adults experience.

Even the voyage from earth to water and all the activities in-between can be expressed as a metaphor, from an earth-bound, mother-bound child to one who is free to fend for himself. A beautifully printed study, available for \$6.00 from Masumi H. Keesey, P.O. Box 6155, Tallahassee, FL 32301.

Kathy Goes to Haiti by Kathy Acker with drawings by Robert Kushner is another in the strong fiction done by artist-author Acker. An erotic, sensuous trip through Kathy's adventures in that exotic land with Kushner's apt and strong drawings make this enticing reading. Published by Rumour Publications, 720 Queen St., W., Toronto, Ont. M6J 1E8 and available for \$5.95.

Old City Arts' Umbrella, compiled by Harry W. Saffren, is no competition for the newsletter you are reading. Instead, it is a participatory volume by several Philadelphia artists who live and work in the historic section of Old Philadelphia. Each artist produced one thousand copies of his or her work to be included in the total, including the "pop-up city" done by Saffren. There are poems, drawings, photographs, collage, prose and poetic license. A winner at all costs, and it only goes for \$8.00 from Harry W. Saffren, 5538 Morris St., Philadelphia 19144 or from the WPA Bookshop, 1227 G St., N.W., Washington, DC 20005.

ARTWORKS, a new artists' book and publications shop in Venice, California, is seeking books and artists' publications from artists all over the world for resale in this exciting new contemporary setting. Please send sample copy with price to Judith A. Hoffberg, Artworks, P.O. Box 3903, Glendale, CA 91201. The shop is located at 66 Windward Avenue, Venice, CA 90291 and will have its opening on 6 June 1979. Postcards are also being solicited for resale. The proprietors are Lael Mann, Barbara Pascal and Judith A. Hoffberg.

North America's first International Dada Festival will be held in Ukiah, California in May, 1980. Under the auspices of the Mendocino Arts/Crafts Economic Development Project (MAED) and Mendo-Dada (M.A.D.), the festival will be a four-day event encompassing the more dada-esque branches of contemporary arts as practiced by more than one hundred artists from Europe and the Americas.

The festival will serve two primary purposes, according to MAED spokesperson Stephen Caravello, one of which is to enhance Mendocino County's blossoming reputation as an artistic community.

"We want to draw attention to local artists," Caravello said at the first meeting of festival organizers. "We're hoping to promote the area in general which will in turn develop the arts industry and help Mendocino County arts and crafts being marketed elsewhere."

Caravello's other motivation in helping *Inter-Dada '80* is related less to economics, and more to promoting art for its own sake.

"Right now there is no contemporary art festival held in the United States," Caravello said, adding that many European and South American countries sponsor annual art gatherings. "This might hopefully be the beginning of a long-term event," he said.

Events planned for the four-day exposition (scheduled to run 1 - 4 May at various sites in the Ukiah area) include speakers, film and video displays, workshop and performance pieces, process art, outdoor sculpture, a Mail Art Exhibit and assorted booths in which artists, authors and publishers may exhibit and sell their works.

Chairman for the festival, Buster Cleveland, says that a sizable number of organizations are already lending support and planning to participate in the festival, including the Ukiah Players, the Magic Lantern Theater, Northern Valley Cultural Arts Association, North Coast Arts of Arcata, the Sonoma Arts Council, and the Mendocino Artists and Writers Guild, all members of the Rural Arts Services Consortium.

Other groups which have expressed interest in *Inter-Dada '80* include Mendo-Dada, *Umbrella* and *Wet* Magazines (both from Los Angeles), San Francisco's La Mabelle Gallery, Anna Banana and Dadaland, Arturo Schwarz and Cavellini.

Groups and individuals wishing to participate or learn more about the festival are invited to call Stephen Caravello or Susan Meier at (707)462-7855 or write to 546 North State Street, no. 3, Ukiah, CA 95482.

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