

## NEWS & NOTES

With regard to Francis Hines, who wrapped an abandoned tenement in New York City in gauze in late May, people in the neighborhood burned and tore much of the gauze after a number of youths were said to have hurt themselves by swinging on the long strips.

When the wrapping first went up, Hines observed that "Whatever happens, happens. It's almost a part of the process." He called the subsequent incidents "unfortunate."

### CONSERVATION

Old pastel masterpieces may retain their beauty with help from modern electronics, from an electrostatic plate that prevents the chalky pigment from flaking. The plate consists of positive and negative circuits laminated in plastic. When placed behind a drawing and given a 10,000-volt potential, it generates a field of static electricity that holds the pastel particles to the surface of the paper. The unit and painting are enclosed in a dust-free frame to prevent contamination. Tests to date indicate the plate is superior to existing conservation methods because it virtually stops flaking. Also, unlike spray fixatives, it does not alter certain colors. Hughes built the plate at the request of the Conservation Center of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. The Armand Hammer Foundation provided funds.

### GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

*The National Portrait Gallery Permanent Collection Illustrated Checklist.* Lists alphabetically by subject the holdings of the NP Gallery. Each entry includes a cameo-size reference reproduction and lists artist, medium, size, and year of completion. 1978. 172p., illus. S/N 047-006-00019-8 \$5.50

*Photographs by the Wright Brothers: Prints from the Glass Negatives in the Library of Congress.* A collection of negative photographic plates was acquired by the Library of Congress from the estate of Orville Wright in 1949. Most of the views on the plates were taken by the Wright brothers themselves between 1898 and 1911 and document their successes and failures with their new flying machines. This set of five microfiche reproduces these photographs for the first time. The 301 photographs have been organized into five groups as follows: gliders, powered flights, portraits and informal photographs, Kitty Hawk and other locales, and memorabilia. An illustrated booklet provides a guide to the microfiche. 1978. 5 fiche & booklet. 18p. S/N 030-014-00003-1 \$4.00

### PHOTOGRAPHY

The Witkin Gallery has available *American Stereoviews*, a 20-page catalog illustrating 24 groups of stereos plus a selection of individual views, including Bell, Bennett, Jackson, Hillers, Muybridge, Watkins, etc. \$2.50 plus \$.75 domestic postage and tax, with \$1.50 for foreign postage from Witkin Gallery, 41 E. 57th St., New York, NY 10022.

■ The Library of Congress is now offering a series of 10 master photographs made from negatives in the custody of the Library's Prints and Photographs Division. The photographers represented are Charles H. Currier, Walker Evans, Dorothea Lange, Arthur McCurdy, Arthur Rothstein, and Marion Post Wolcott.

The 8 x 10 inch photographs sell for \$12.50 each, or for \$100 for a set of 10. Available by mail from the Information Office, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540, or in person at the Information Office, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540, or in person at the Information Counter, Library of Congress Bldg. All orders must be prepaid? postage is included in the price.

■ Photofile, P.O. Box 123, Zion, IL 60099 offers acid-free envelopes for photos, polyester negative envelopes with silicon dioxide added for non-stick protection, as well as clear polyester binders and transparent polyester sleeves.

### PERFORMANCE ART

Charlie Morrow's "Wave Music III" for 60 clarinets was performed outdoors in Battery Park in New York in late June. Morrow is head of the New Wilderness Foundation.

■ Robert Wilson's new *Death, Destruction and Detroit*, scheduled for the Metropolitan Opera and the JFK Center in Washington this summer has been postponed for a year.

In the meantime, he is mounting a new four-act play entitled, *Edison*, with sets being slide projections of Wilson's drawings.

■ The New York Art Theater Institute, 116 East 14th Street, in New York City is a new "alternative space" where visual artists mix with theater people. Executive director is Linda Blumberg, formerly head of P.S.1.

The space is a former dance hall, which is accessible, ripe for change, and is actually within a former theater district.

### HEALTH HAZARDS FOR ARTISTS

A new safety guide for artists is now available from the College Art Association. The 72-page book, called *Safe Practices in the*

*Arts & Crafts: A Studio Guide* points out potential dangers in art processes, listed alphabetically from ceramics to wood-working, and lists ways of minimizing the hazards.

Copies can be obtained by mail from the CAA, 16 E. 52nd St., New York, NY 10022 for \$3.00 for single copies plus 75 cents for postage and handling.

■ Representative Fred Richmond from Brooklyn is going to introduce Federal legislation requiring manufacturers to provide more detailed labels on art materials. Under the Richmond proposal, the labels on all containers would have to include a list of ingredients by chemical name; precautions to take while using the product; health problems that could result from misuse, and what to do in case of adverse effects.

Most labels on art supplies now contain only general warnings, such as "Use with adequate ventilation," and lists of ingredients that artists say are meaningless to anyone but chemists.

### ART, LOST AND FOUND

The Bauhaus-Archiv of Berlin, international conservator of the arts and literature of the twentieth-century European avant-garde, announces that over the past three years a significant number of important books, pamphlets, and ephemeral periodicals have been stolen from its library collection. Although the person accused of the thefts will stand trial in Berlin during the coming months, it is urgently requested by Hans M. Wingler, Director of the Bauhaus-Archiv, that booksellers be aware that a certain number of the stolen materials have not yet been recovered.

Some of the books still outstanding are Man Ray's *Alphabet for Adults (1948)*, Franz Roh's *Foto-Auge (1929)*, *Staatliches Bauhaus 1919-1923 (1923)*, and numerous works of specialized architectural and Bauhaus periodicals and announcements.

For further information, write to Bauhaus-Archiv, D-1000 Berlin 30 (West), Klingelhoferstrasse 13-14, West Germany.

■ Thieves stole \$1.5 million worth of art works, including a painting by El Greco, in a raid on an unguarded museum in Caceres, Spain. The Museum of Fine Arts in the Casa del Mono was robbed by thieves who found easy access through the roof.

Caceres is the medieval walled city west of Madrid.

■ A flamboyant 48-year-old art dealer convicted of fraud for selling 32 fake paintings to a Dallas millionaire was sentenced in July to a two-year prison sentence and fined \$3,500.

Fernand Legros sold a total of 54 paintings for \$60,000 to the late oilman Algur Meadows between 1964 and 1967, including works purported to be the works of Picasso, Renoir, Chagall, Modigliani and Dufy.

- According to experts, Venice, Italy has stopped sinking. In fact, the lagoon city has actually risen slightly.

- The three paintings by Paul Cezanne, stolen from the Art Institute of Chicago late last year, were recovered in May and put on display. A former employee of the museum was arrested after he walked into a busy hotel carrying the paintings in a plastic garbage bag and sought to collect at \$250,000 ransom.

- Paintings, statues and relics from a touring exhibit were stolen in May from the gardens of the Renaissance villa of the Gonzaga princely family in Sabbioneta, Italy. The value of the stolen items was estimated at \$1.2 million.

- After presiding more than seven months on the sidewalk outside an art gallery at 77th Street and Madison Avenue in New York City, where it became the favorite of the neighborhood, unknown vandals pulled it from its pedestal and left it smashed in pieces on the sidewalk. The piece, *Ubatuba*, by French artist Antoine Poncet, will be restored, but faith in New York City was shaken with this event.

- The Taj Mahal is in danger of being eaten away by acid fumes from a new oil refinery. The Government was considering coating the 300-year-old white marble monument with silicones to ward off the danger, but said this could cause even more damage.

According to the *New York Times*, "pot-hunters" are wreaking havoc on prehistoric sites, digging up burial grounds, bulldozing ruins, scattering relics, because of the growing international market for American Indian artifacts.

Over half of the recorded ancient sites have been plundered in the United States for profit. A bill now under consideration in Congress is called the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, sponsored by congressmen from Arizona, New Mexico, California, and Missouri. Penalties can reach a maximum of \$2,000 per violation, but criminal penalties will go up to \$100,000 putting some clout into the penalties for outright theft of our archaeological heritage.

- Murals are being cleaned and restored in the New York State Supreme Court Building in New York City. Students from the State University College at Oneonta are working to restore the murals as part of the \$180,000 courthouse renovation program.

## ARCHITECTURE

Architects at their own professional meeting in Kansas City in June were lectured to by I.M. Pei as "confused and divided" by a schism between "the world of architectural ideas."

Pietro Belluschi also told the meeting of more than 4,000 architects that architects were on a "well-advertised hedonistic binge" that has taken away "discipline and integrity in the search for excellence."

- The Dutch Museum of Architecture has a list of publications available, which include three monographs on Dutch architects such as Auke Komter, Jan Wils, and Johan Niegeman. Write to Stichting Architectuurmuseum, Droogbak 1A, 1013 GE, Amsterdam, Netherlands for more information.

## SLIDES & FICHE

Miniature Gallery, 60 Russett Close, Long Ditton, Surrey KT7 0UT, England announces the issue of *Paintings in Spanish Collections*, which lists single slides of Spanish painting.

They also announce the extensive coverage of *The William Blake Exhibition*, which was held at the Tate Gallery. The price is \$64.

*Contemporary Glass 1977*. 12 page booklet, 2 4 x 6 microfiche, 113 international glass artists, 120 full color illustrations. \$5.00 plus \$.35 postage/handling; N.Y. tax where applicable. Send to Publications Sales CG, The Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY 14830.

In order to destroy its microfiches, the Social Security Administration has decided to put the fiche in a crock pot, cover with water and boil it from 75 to 105 minutes. When finished, discard immediately.

The microfiche files, which are revised four times a year in all Social Security offices, proved hard to get rid of. The plastic cards were dulling the blades of the office shredders, and could only be inserted one at a time. If burned, they were smelly.

So when one of the employees devised the boiling method, the agency's 1,300 district offices were instructed to buy crock pots to do the job.

## STATE ARTS COUNCILS

William Cook, former president of the San Francisco Dance Coalition, was named executive director of the California Arts Council (CAC) recently by Governor Brown, effective 23 July.

\$6.3 million is the new budget for the CAC, almost three times as much as the controversial agency's last budget. Brown had recommended \$10.7 million, but the

Legislature reduced the sum.

- Theodore W. Striggles, a lawyer and a former professional dancer, has been named executive director of the New York State Council on the Arts. He will help to distribute \$31 million during 1979-80.

- The California Arts Council's newest member, Jane Fonda, was recently not confirmed by the State Senate, meaning that she can serve only another sixty days and cannot be reappointed. 16 Republicans and 12 Democrats voted against her appointment.

She was called a "traitor" by some of the Senators, saying that she aided and abetted the enemy, meaning Vietnam, and therefore waived her right to serve in any appointive position in state government.

## THE ART MARKET

The auction houses have scored spectacular sales increases. Recently a portrait by Henri Matisse sold in London, setting a world auction price record for a 20th-century painting. *Le Jeune Marin I* was purchased by an anonymous buyer for \$1,576,800.

- Latin American art is now "in" in the art market. Increased art collection among Latin Americans, most of whom come from Mexico and Venezuela.

- A Roman glass bowl, possibly made in the Rhineland in A.D. 300, was auctioned in June in London for \$1.04 million.

- Sotheby's Benjamin Sonnenberg Collection auction, the largest assemblage of art and antiques from a single owner ever auctioned by Sotheby Parke Bernet of New York, netted \$4.7 million, the third highest total for any single collection ever auctioned at that establishment.

## WOMEN

Germaine Greer, the author of 1971's *The Female Eunuch*, will be publishing a new book this fall entitled *The Obstacle Race: The Fortunes of Women Painters and Their Work*. The author has spent the last seven years searching for neglected art by women. This book will reveal discoveries and some reflections on "the humiliations of sexual innuendo" and "the effects of female submissiveness and erotic entanglement with adored male masters."

- Beautiful Posters celebrating women in the arts, who have been commemorated on postage stamps around the world, have been produced by Creative Women's Collective, 236 West 27th Street, New York, NY 10001. Designed and handscreened on heavy ivory laid paper (20 x 26), they have been produced with the help of a grant from the Eastman Foundation.

The Creative Women's Collective is a non-profit organization of women artists: painters, sculptors, graphic artists, photographers and others.

The posters are \$3.00 each or a set of 6 for \$15 plus postage.

## MUSEUM NEWS

The Hirshhorn Museum has acquired a sculpture by Maillol entitled *Action in Chains: Monument to Louis-Auguste Blanqui*.

■ The Museum of Modern Art has reached an agreement with the French Government and the heirs of Pablo Picasso to mount the largest and most comprehensive Picasso show ever seen in the United States.

*Pablo Picasso: A Retrospective* will fill the entire museum next May with more than 700 works in all of the media. It will mark the first time that the present building has been entirely devoted to the work of one artist. Dates are 11 May to 16 September.

■ A group of private collectors has the blessing of Mayor Bradley of Los Angeles to establish a modern art museum in the city. Recommended sites include the Pan-Pacific Auditorium in West Hollywood, the Union Station, and the Wiltern Theater, among others.

At the same time, the Atlantic Richfield Company has given \$3 million to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art to establish a contemporary art museum. We will see what happens in this division of vested interests, all seeking the same goal.

■ The National Gallery of Art in Washington has acquired three paintings and three drawings by Arshile Gorky.

■ The Museum of Modern Art has arranged to sell its air rights for \$17 million to a developer who will construct a 44-story apartment tower above the museum building.

■ At the AAM (American Association of Museums) meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, the major topic in June was the long-range planning of budgets seriously eroded by inflation. The problem of financial stability seemed uppermost in most discussions.

■ The Studio Museum in Harlem is looking for new quarters, with about a quarter of a million dollars to spend. Having grown with three artists in residence, major exhibitions, and with a reputation as the principal center for study of black art in America, the museum is now looking for sites in central Harlem.

■ The Jewish Museum recently dropped 19 early paintings by a Jewish artist from a forthcoming retrospective of his work, because of their "Christian symbolism." David Aronson's 19 early paintings will be shown, instead, at the National Academy of Design, three blocks away.

The museum is run by the Jewish Theological Seminary, representing the Conservative wing of Judaism. The artistic merit of the paintings has not been questioned, only the "explicit Christian symbolism" which makes them inappropriate for exhibition at the Jewish Museum.

We find the decision to divide the exhibit is "inappropriate", since art itself is indivisible.

■ The Huntington Library, which includes art galleries and botanical gardens, as well as one of the great research libraries in the United States, has been the recipient recently of a major private art collection of 42 paintings, including the work of Rembrandt, Van Dyck, David, Canaletto, Watteau, Boucher, Romney and Gainsborough, as well as a number of miniatures and decorative art objects. The Adele S. Browning Memorial Collection is valued at \$10 million.

■ The Metropolitan Museum of Art has recently been recipient of two European old master paintings from Mr. & Mrs. Charles Wrightsman. One is *The Miracle of Christ Healing the Blind* by El Greco and *The Penitent Magdalen* by Georges de La Tour.

## PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Environmental Communications has a new catalog for 1979 which features its offerings of slides, film, video and books in a visually exciting book. \$5.95 for this collectors' item from Environmental Communications, 66½ Windward Ave., Venice, CA 90291.

■ *Stained Glass Index 1960-1977*, available for \$10.00 (plust \$1.25 for shipping and handling) has the *Index 1978* available for an additional \$1.00. Write to Stained Glass, 753 Hawthorne Drive, Valparaiso, IN 46383.

■ *The Dover Pictorial Archive Book Catalog* for 1979 is now available with over 100,000 designs in over 250 books, mainly priced at \$4.00 to \$5.00 from the world's largest selection of copyright-free art. Write to Dover Publications, Inc., 180 Varick St., New York, NY 10014.

## THE ULTIMATE ART PERFORMANCE

In June, an artist and former social worker in New York City took her own life after long and deliberate preparations, allowing her friends to help her complete a "life-sculpture" in a coffin-like pine box and to drink champagne toasts in a rite of farewell before she took an overdose of Seconal.

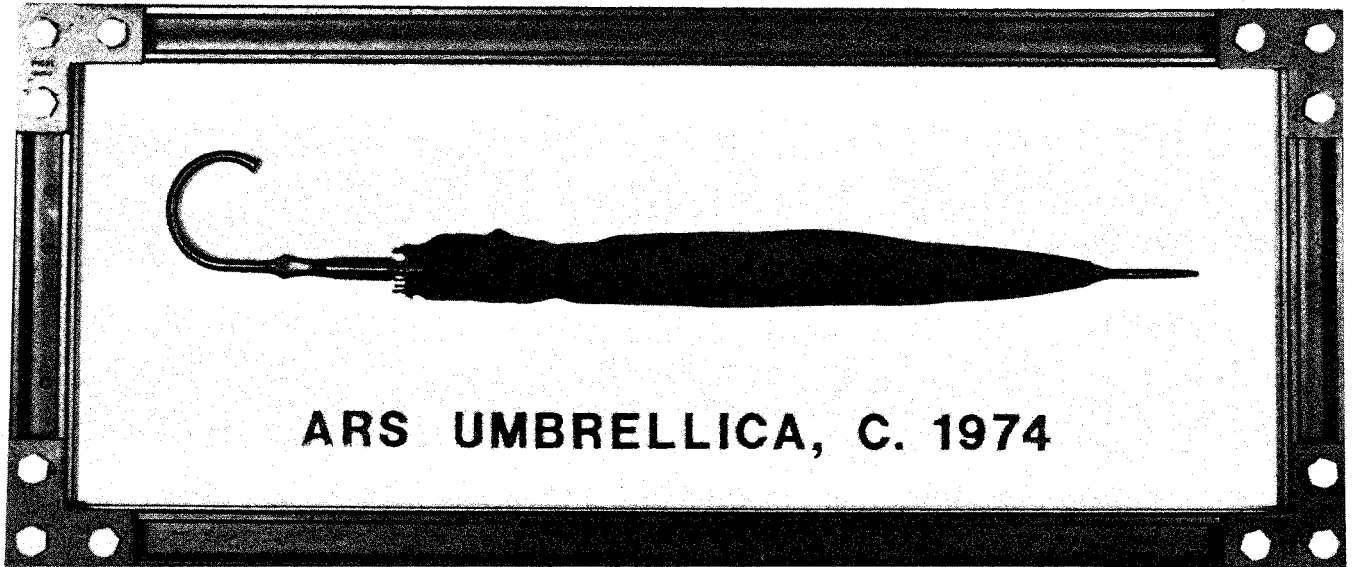
In the coffin she placed photograph albums, scrapbooks, a nearly complete file of letters written by her as well as letters written to her, small paintings done by herself and received as gifts, notebooks, etc.

Jo Roman, 62, took her life on 10 June after enjoying a day and evening with friends. She had been diagnosed as having cancer and had already gone through chemotherapy treatments.

**FIRST ANNUAL ARTWORKS CHRISTMAS SHOW.** Artists are invited to submit objects, books and other artifacts for consideration for exhibition and sale during the Christmas Show at Artworks, 66 Windward Avenue, Venice, CA 90291. Deadline: 10 November 1979. Please send complete price information for resale (60/40 breakdown for books, 50/50 for other items) and name and address and phone number. Items will be on display from 15 November through 25 December 1979.

**ACCEPTING TEE SHIRT ART WORKS BY ARTISTS,** for inclusion in Tee Shirt Archive and possible traveling exhibitions. Send to: La Mamelle Inc., Box 3123, San Francisco, CA 94119.

**ASSOCIATED ART PUBLISHERS NETWORK** is planning to publish **ARTISTS' PUBLICATIONS IN PRINT.** For a free camera-ready page in a volume that will go to libraries and collectors, become a member for \$25.00. Send camera-ready copy before 31 August with membership to AAPN, P.O. Box 3903, Glendale, CA 91201. You can advertise your books or periodicals. Spec sheets will be available also.



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