

ARTISTS' BOOKS: news and reviews

NEWS

Susan Wick is in Japan now. Send \$25.00 immediately for your unique copy of *Japan Book* by the artist. It will be constructed and sent upon your order. Limited edition of 50 books. Add \$3.00 for postage. Check or money order to Wick's Books, P.O. Box 4719, Berkeley, CA 94704. **Deadline: 1 May 1980.** This is a way to help Wick finance her return trip ticket from Japan and a one month's stay in Kyoto renting a room in a private house. This is a subscription that will get you a unique book!

● *A Book, Working* will be an anthology of artists' books (from 8 to 12) made of original unpublished artists' books, preferably from individuals who have never worked in the book format before. The artists represented, whenever possible, will be encouraged to design and layout their bookwork, to maintain as much control over the final product as possible. An advance of \$150 will be paid, plus a sizable number of copies of the final volume. **Deadline: 15 May 1980.** Approximate length: 15-50 pages. Send all submissions, enquiries, and/or requests for information to *A Book, Working, A Space*, 299 Queen Street West, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5V 1Z9.

● For all those readers who have surmised from *Afterimage* that **Artists' Publications in Print** is a one-time only catalog, they are wrong. The editor of *Umbrella* will be publishing **Artists' Publications in Print** as an annual catalog, produced by Umbrella Associates. The catalog will be based on the same premise, that artists who self-publish would like to reach a larger audience with a visual catalog. Thus, the price of a page gets you an audience of 2,000 in a very easy manner. Specs for the 1980-81 catalog will be mailed out in the summer of 1980. If you wish to be on the mailing list for inclusion in APIP, please write to this newsletter indicating your request for forms this summer.

● X-Off for Artists, The Writer's Center, in Glen Echo, Maryland, offers opportunities for artists, printmakers, photographers, writers and graphic designers to use the press in an experimental way. Applications are being accepted for workshops by instructors Kevin Osborn and Paul Trimble. Write to X-Off, The Writer's Center, Glen Echo Park, Glen Echo, MD 20768.

● *Bookworks: Washington, DC* is the first exhibition of books by Washington artists, curated by H. Terry Braunstein, shown at the Washington Project for the Arts, 1227 G St., DC. From 4 - 29 March, one can see 65 books by 30 artists, representing a wide variety of media.

In association with the exhibition, a symposium on the artist's book will be held on 22 March with Jacki Apple of the Franklin Furnace, moderating.

● Jurgen Kramer announces that the newest issue of *The 80's*, no. 7/8, is imminent with more than 150 pages, expanding the double number into a kind of yearbook. Entitled, *Untitled*, Kramer says that this issue will become a kind of negative milestone in Occidental culture. Write to Jurgen Kramer, P.O. Box 1142, D-4650 Gelsenkirchen, R.F.A., F. R. Germany. Single issues cost \$6.00.

● Art Metropole has issued its Catalogue No. 7 for books, special editions, records and periodicals. Write to Art Metropole, 217 Richmond Street West, Toronto, Canada M5V 1W2 for a copy.

● *Media: The Bio-Tech Rehearsal for Leaving the Body* is the new book by Les Levine, published by the Alberta College of Art Gallery in 1979. It includes the importance of the camera, video, what the government can do for the arts, etc. Available from Alberta College of Art Gallery, S.A.I.T. Campus, 1301 - 16th Ave., N.W., Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2M 0L4.

● Tohei Horiike has returned to Japan and will probably be publishing his Shimizu periodical soon. For those of you who have not been contacted since he returned to Japan, his address is: Tohei Horiike, 853-2, Tadanuma-Cho, Shimizu City, Shizuoka-Pref., Japan.

● The Center for Book Arts in New York opens *The Naked Book* on 21 March at the Brooklyn Arts and Culture Association Downtown Cultural Center. Performing artists of various disciplines will be transformed into a living display of various aspects of the book, including content, structure, and mobility.

REVIEWS

She Describes Infinity by Barry McCallion is a voyage through the pages of this book, a voyage on a boat with transparent sheets being able to approximate the slow movement of the boat with brushstrokes of water on each page and the placement of the boat in different positions on the pages, so that shadows of sails and movement of the boat itself are dictated by the turning of the pages, a participatory book dictated by the movement of the reader's thumb. The boat turns in 360 degrees with thrashing waves dictated only by the reader. A product of those consummate publishers, ecart, 6 rue plantamour, geneve, Switzerland and from Artworks, 66 Windward Ave., Venice, CA 90291. \$10.00

Lame Duck: A Discourse on Language by Marshall Sanders is a charming little book exploring words and language in relation to photographs and placement on the page. \$2.75

In the general trend and interest in erotica today, one of the nicest productions this year is *Victorian Album*, a collection of Erotica by Joseph, with a bemused text, lucid and funny, beautiful reproductions from color Xerox, fish-eye lens photographs, words, and set-up photos. A small edition of 108 this book is available from Joe Ruther, 3519 Estates Rd., Tallahassee, FL 32304. The author realizes that these images have been produced in the home of antebellum thinking, located "in the crotch of the Bible Belt, inhabited by a permanent party of protectors of the morals of youth." But the book is beautiful, and not offensive; in fact, even funny.

Five Found Photos by Geoffrey Hendricks was created after a sojourn in Germany. A hand-made beautifully conceived album-type book, the photos are inserted in photo-corners. Hendricks explains that while rummaging through flea mar-

kets, he collected some old postcards and photos. Finding the photos of the same people, he saw groupings, and thus paired images visually, narratively and numerically, sometimes finding surprises. The five cards are a distillation from the process, implying a story, or a dream, or a souvenir. Published by Printed Editions, a bargain at \$5.00.

Top Stories is a series of prose periodicals published by Hard Press in Buffalo, New York. Pati Hill comes up with *Three Stories* (she is a copy artist as well); Donna Wyszomierski does *Too Good to be Entirely True*, a stream-of-consciousness, and Laurie Anderson's *Words in Reverse* are extracts from *Like a Stream* (1978), a piece for string ensemble, tape bow instruments, and voice, and *Americans on the Move* (1979), an extended series for voice, electronics, film and instruments. The performances have been seen through Europe and the U.S. \$1.00 for each.

Tunisian Curve/Italian Curve by Johan Cornelissen juxtaposes two rubber-stamp photographs, one of a Tunisian road with palm trees, and one of an Italian curved railroad track. The gradation of color depends upon the inking—and the development of the dots. This is a large-format book produced by Rubberbooks, edited by aart van Barneveld at the Stempelplaats in Amsterdam. \$5.00 bargain!

Modern Fashions by David Buchan commemorates the exhibition of Modern Fashion by the artist at the Glenbow Museum in Calgary. The book is conceived as an artist's book with a catalog of the exhibition. Since all the pieces in the show were based on advertising concepts, the catalog looks like a periodical; in fact, duplicating the old format *Esquire* which is where most of the original ads came from. The photographs all simulate ads for fashions with "these guys dressed to kill." The concept of the book is "fantasy", but "there really is no business like shoe business" as you will see. The book includes a performance chronology, and is available from Art Metropole, 217 Richmond St. W., Toronto, M5V 1W2, or from Glenbow Museum, 9th Ave. & 1st Street, S.E., Calgary, Alta.

Self-Portraits by Tom Ahern is a beautifully conceived, sometimes hilarious group of photographs of Mr. Ahern or of his name or facsimiles thereof. A little book in the vein of visual autobiography published by Diana's Bimonthly Press, 71 Elmgrove Avenue, Providence, RI 02906. \$4.99

Your Future in Waitressing by Nancy Schaefer reflects this artist's continuing concentration on a philosophy that we are all waitresses through life. In the deluxe version of this book, bound in red and white table-cloth material, the subtitle of the book, *Basic Steps to Financial Security through Hard Work and Heavy Loads* gives us the key. Also, Nancy's pseudonym, Laura Buckles, also gives the theme of the book which houses a net (worn by waitresses), another page with a handkerchief, a text about tips (the gratuities given at the end of the meal, as well as hints on keeping a pencil on your ear, carrying a pad in your pocket, and buying an apron or uniform. The next page has a guest check in a pocket, a "Hello My Name Is" label, hints about dealing with other waitresses, and a pocket of two postcards with the theme,

"keeping up the Mona Lisa smile." The author has a large collection of "waitresses through the art history postcard world", which this reflects. There is also a "plain" version which costs \$4.00 and gets the message across without the artifacts. Deluxe version is \$25.00. A reverberating book in our culture, well conceived, beautifully executed, and one which can be contemplated over the years with new insights.

Read by Cewzan Grayson is a description of the viewer's activity in perceiving the art, an observer of apriori phenomenon instigated by the artist who uses such elements as idea, space, material, process, place and time. The viewer's part is an equal and integral element in the relationship between all of the elements involved in the art phenomenon.

The first page of *Read* is the title page, the second page consists of a definition of the word "read" and the definition of every word of this definition. The other pages of *Read* define all of the words in the second page. Thus, the work is self-analyzing as demonstrated by the definitions which are arrived at by means of the syntax of the sentence determining the word's meaning. Still further, the analysis goes into the initial description of the viewer perceiving the work.

34 pages, unbound and held together in a clear plastic envelope, the work is offset on ivory rag paper. An unusually intelligent and analytic "read". \$7.00 from Artworks or Printed Matter.

MoMA (Mail Off Money Art) is a series of postcards devised by a class of Donna Lee Phillips in San Francisco, a photography class, in fact—which went out and photographed scenes "not by" Minor White, Muybridge, Lew Thomas, Diane Arbus, Paul Strand, etc., and then seeing the similarities to established photographers opted to produce a set of postcards that are hilarious, perhaps more "in" to photographers than not, but a very nice set of 24 postcards that make a commentary on contemporary photography. \$6.00 from Artworks.

N8, a series of economically produced books that attempt to show some relationship between small business and artists, the subjective retention of information, and an opportunity to pay closer attention, are made by using *only* the newspaper from the day they are made. The editor, Darryl Vance, says that the production of these books is directly related to the lack of business at the place where he works. If there were work to do, he wouldn't have had the time to make them. (One half is distributed free, the other is not). Xeroxed format, these booklets sell for \$4.00 each and are available from Darryl Vance, P.O. Box 7031, Atlanta, GA 30357 or from the Nexus Bookshop, 608 Forrest Rd., NE, Atlanta, GA 30312.

Topografia by Regina Silveira is a small portfolio foldout book with an increasingly complex geometric formation that develops into a gun set into a cubistic form. Edition of 100. Published by Rubberbooks, Stempelplaats in Amsterdam and available from Artworks.

ALL THE BOOKS MENTIONED IN THESE COLUMNS ARE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT ARTWORKS, 66 Windward Avenue, Venice, CA 90291.