

ARTISTS' BOOKS: news and reviews

NEWS

Ulises Carrion recently installed an exhibition of books by more than 100 artists from 25 countries at the Living Art Museum in Nylistasafnio, Iceland, with most of the books coming from the Other Books & So Archive in Amsterdam, except for a small Icelandic section. Carrion attempted to exhibit bookworks which varied in typography, photography, calligraphy, copy art or drawing revealing the book's significance in an era of multimedia communication.

He also visited the United States, installing his own show in Boston and then visiting other cities.

● International Artists' Books are being shown from 17 January through 15 February at the Art Institute of Chicago, School Library.

● The Pacific Center for the Book Arts is celebrating its first anniversary by establishing its new printing and binding facility at Kala in Berkeley, California.

● A new bookshop, Contemporary Art Bookshop, has opened in Ghent, Belgium at 23 Gewad, covering all aspects of contemporary art, including the psychology and philosophy related to it. Patrick Florizzone is the director.

● German artists' books from 1970 on, including books, catalogs, postcards, records, cassettes, and magazines, was shown at the Museum of Modern Art of the City of Paris, A.R.C. in October-November, curated by Michel Giroud. It was the first time the collaboration between artist and publisher has been shown in France. Included were works by Filliou, Brus, Gosewitz, Schmit, Brecht, Vostell, Boltanski, Tom Phillips, Broodthaers, as well as Rene Block, Galerie Der Spiegel, and other galleries that forward publishing; institutions such as the Kunstverein, DAAD, etc., as well as Dumont and other occasional trade publishers who delve into artists' publications. Included were several periodicals, as well as artist-publishers Dieter Rot, G. Brus, Dorothy Ianone, Timm Ulrichs, etc.

A boxed catalog is available from Goethe-Institut, 17 Avenue d'Iena, Paris.

● Stephen Moore/Art, whose books are now cataloged for an exhibition held in December by the Green Gallery, Community Cultural Center, Brookings, South Dakota 57006 is available for \$1.25.

● Kate Linker, in the recently revived *Studio International*, writes on "The Artist's Book as an Alternative Space."

● Beeld Boeken is an outstanding catalog of limited edition and one-of-a-kind books published by Juan Agius of the Da Costa Gallery in Amsterdam. These visual, tactile, aural and sometimes verbal books are each an experience in itself, so that no printed page can reproduce the unique work. The catalog, however, whets the appetite for these unique, expensive works of art. Write to Galerie Da Costa, Da Costakade 115, 1053 WS Amsterdam.

● At Franklin Furnace through January, the second in a series of four exhibitions presenting a history of artists' publishing in the twentieth century is being shown. Entitled "The Page as Alternative Space, 1930-1949," publications from the collection of its curator, Charles Henri Ford, are being exhibited, such as *View* magazine, published by Ford between 1940 and 1947, as well as *Circle* magazine and a selection of *Tiger's Eye*, etc.

● The Great Midwestern Bookshow, a festival for readers, writers, artists and booksellers, will be held 24 - 26 April, 1981 at Willey Hall, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, featuring three days of book and magazine exhibitions from small press publishers, a juried Small Press Art Exhibit, workshops, covering distribution, publicity, marketing and other issues; a free Bookshow Catalog/Anthology, with poetry and fiction from participating exhibitors, and live music and performances.

The Bookshow is organized by Independent Twin Cities' small press publishers, as well as several other organizations. Small and non-commercial presses interested in exhibiting are encouraged to reserve table space early. Deadline for the Catalog/Anthology is 15 February 1981, and for work submitted to the Small Press Art Exhibition is 1 February 1981. For registration form and details, write to The Great Midwestern Bookshow, P.O. Box 8918, Minneapolis, MN 55408. We recommend that publishers of bookworks also participate in this bookfair.

● Nigel Greenwood has issued his List 22 for December 1980 which has a great number of new artists' books available, as well as catalogs, group shows, photography exhibitions, magazines, etc. The list is rich; the books are available from Nigel Greenwood Inc., Ltd. Books, 41 Sloane Gardens, London SW1W 8EB, England.

● Verlag Hubert Kretschmer, P.O. 26 01 17, Munchen, West Germany has a new catalog of current artists' books and publications, besides his own three-volume boxed set of exhibition catalogs of artists' books held in his gallery in Munich. Write to Hubert for his list.

● Lapp Princess Press, Ltd. has produced a catalog of its 14 books, which it is offering at a special price for the whole collection. Write to Lapp Princess Press, Ltd., 450 E. 63rd St., New York, NY 10021.

● Galerie A, Kleine Gartmanplantsoen 12, 1017 RR Amsterdam offers a catalog of artists' books and records, multiples and graphics, covering everything from Art & Language to Wolf Vostell.

● *Book Publishers Directory*, published by Gale Research, is supposed to serve as a guide to new and established, private and special interest, avant-garde and alternative presses. Since in their second issue, they listed only 130 art and photography publishers, the number falling far short of reflecting current activity, Gale Research has now offered to list anyone who has actually published a book in the past year. They need a name and address so that they

can send you a questionnaire. Write to Annie Brewer, Senior Editor, Gale Research Company, Book Tower, Detroit, MI 48226.

● *Books by Artists*, a touring exhibition of artists' books from the collection of Art Metropole curated by Tim Guest, opened for a preview at the Metro Toronto Library Gallery from 20 November to 24 December 1980.

For more information about the itinerary, write to Art Metropole, 217 Richmond St. West, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5V 1W2.

● *Photographic Notations* by Robert Leverant, reviewed in the November issue of this newsletter, is published by Images Press in Berkeley, California and is available from Bookpeople, 2940 7th St., Berkeley, CA 94710 or from Artworks for \$4.50. Sorry we failed to include this information.

REVIEWS

ca-CAN-CANDID by Linda Nishio is a book of photographs of expressively gestured people taken from the TV set and replaced within the artist's silhouette shape. Each profiled head sits individually on a page facing the center of the book alluding to the perceptual illusion of the vase/heads phenomena. The book is skilfully produced in offset and within the 20 pages, there is a sparse text addressing an art/life quandary, the quandary of a woman, a human being, and an artist. Edition of 250, signed and numbered. \$3.00 from Artworks and Printed Matter.

Art N.A.M.E. Gallery Book 2 comes out of the Gallery in Chicago, and this edition has been edited by three separate artists, who each take the responsibility of a different section. The first section, edited by Michael Brakke, deals with chronology, time and visual/verbal narrative. Deborah Walker's work is especially interesting using 1930s-type line drawings of follow-the-numbers kinds of portraits, and the pages, printed on opaque paper, become many pages each developing overlay over overlay penetrating into the depth of the paper. Mysterious and wonderful!

Part II deals with Artists' Writings, edited by Michiko Itatani. Since the editor believes art is an intellectual endeavor, the choice of his 10 artists reflects the variety, the diversity, the thoughtfulness of artists who use words as well as images. We think this middle part is exceptional, and perhaps reflects the Chicago climate as well.

Part III, edited by Auste, reflects punk and new wave graphics, narratives and photographs enhanced with stylized new zest, with the same feeling as *Volume*, the new bibliography of punk and new wave records. This is a splendid addition to any library of artists' books. Write to N.A.M.E. Gallery, 9 West Hubbard, Chicago, IL 60610. Price unknown

Stains by Romaine Perin is a little book with deep ideas. Stains are the effects of a cause, the proof of circumstance, the evidence of events. The interpretation by the artist of stains made by daylight, weather and natural disasters on reflecting surfaces is clearly shown, but not always obvious. There are stains of earthquakes in the broken stones, reflec-

tions of the gloomy tundra staining the mirror through the dusk, pellets of rain pockmarking the muddy ground and the swollen river, entering the ocean and then the river becomes stained with salt. And so this book, although little, deals with the many aspects of "stains". A beautiful essay without words, published by Hubert Kretschmer in Munich. \$5.00 from Printed Matter and from Artworks.

Anything in Parentheses can be Ignored by Judith Seeger is illustrated and designed by Leavenworth Jackson, outstanding rubber stamp artist. The blending of these two artists is exceptional, each seeming to understand one verbally, one visually. The poetry is strong, the illustrations complement but never overtake the poems. The design of each page makes the experience of each poem a singular one. This is a not-to-be-missed book published by Cartismondua Press, Box 851, Berkeley, CA 94704. \$5.50 postpaid.

Meditations on a Dingbat or the Coming Out of the Trash into the Heap is the first production of the Out of Sorts Press. What Maria Mazzaka and Dianne Platner have done on the letterpress is a little book about life and living, illustrated with ornaments and decorations, with the text handset in Garamond. The two artists met while temporarily dislocated in Los Angeles. Their booklet was well located at the Woman's Graphic Center in Los Angeles. \$5.00. Edition of 70.

Nulla Dies Sine Linea is Swedish artist Claes Tellvid's 1981 Calendar. In an edition of 25, each calendar has 10 original signed works of art—or the first 10 months of the year. If your Latin is stale, the title means "No day without a line" and what the artist has done is literally cross out each day of the first 10 months of 1981. November and December are up to you. \$7.50 exclusively from Artworks.

Soho Detective by J. Moisan tells the story of Bill Dupp and the Organ Grinder Man. In comic-book-type graphics, we get a visual narrative of Bill Dupp, artist from Sidetrack, Oklahoma, who finds himself in New York, as a detective. The story continues full of pathos, humor, and philosophy. This is the first of a series. \$1.00 from Printed Matter and Artworks.

Everyday Stories/Image/Text Series/Theoretical Studies/Object Narratives is a large-size artist's book funded by the Canada Council and the Ontario Arts Council, by George LeGrady. The title reflects the series of photographs, two on a page and the texts to give it documentary/socializing meaning. There are also out-of-focus photographs paired with blank text areas, or texts which truly explain, as well as the juxtaposition in some photographs of various elements. A fascinating photographic experiment. \$6.00

Exhaustive Parallel Intervals by Richard Kostelanetz is another in the long list of bookworks created by this prolific artist, critic and anthologist. Using numbers this time, we get progressions which create a pattern on the page in a diamond shape, and finally the intervals are explained in three pages of text at the back. Published by the Future Press in New York, 1979. Price unknown.

Consequences is a series of communications among five artists over a period from January through June, 1978. These visual-verbal experiences are intense, strong, ambiguous and yet direct. They are printed beautifully (assistance of a grant from the Arts Council of Great Britain) and include Martin Fidler, Les Coleman, Steve Wheatley, Stephen Duncalf and John Digby. Almost as a game, the first artist in the playing order was to create a piece of art, no larger than 3 inches square, to be executed in black and white, using separately or in combination, visual, written or found material and sending it to the second artist. Each artist in receipt of a work had to create another work in response to the piece he had received and then send that response on to the next artist. There were six complete circuits of the five participating players, making a sequence of thirty pieces of art. \$4.50 by Consequences Publications in England.

Dialogue for Three and *Alphabet* are works by Alec Dann of Washington, DC. *Dialogue* is a haunting communication among three persons, printed in multicolor offset. The interpersonal relationships between man and woman, between friends, between lovers are explored. The reader/viewer sometimes feels like a voyeur in this intense environment, beautifully designed by the artist.

Alphabet is not another book of ABC's but in fact a statement from Bertrand Russell's *The ABCs of Relativity* as interpreted by photographs reworked by the offset press into a new visual alphabet of symbols, textures and feelings. Two very sensitive books, exceptionally well designed, are available for \$8.00 each from Artworks.

Marina Abramovic/Ulay's *Relation Work and Detour* is a self-published documentation of the collaborative performances of these two accomplished artists. In this 244-page hardbound volume, we get a pictorial interpretation of all their works in performance, video installations and films. Several color photographs also accomplish a feeling for these outstanding artists, who use their minds and their bodies in their work. There is a complete bibliography through 1980, as well as a biography, with a personal touch felt throughout. 59.50 florins (\$29.50) plus \$2.50 postage and handling from Idea Books, Nieuwe Herengracht 35, 1011 RM Amsterdam, Holland.

Kunstlerbücher I - III, published by Produzentengalerie in Munich, West Germany, is a boxed three-volume set of exhibition catalogs documenting three shows dedicated to artists' books. The first catalog represents multiples, and the other two are more one-of-a-kind and object books.

This is an important multiple catalog, one which represents the end of the 1970s and which launches Hubert Kretschmer as an important promoter of these materials in Europe. Each book is described completely and illustrated with a photograph. The only problem is that the language is German. However, we think these three volumes are important, and they are available for 45DM for the boxed set, or 16 DM for volume I, and 18DM for volumes 2 and 18DM for volume III, from Verlag Hubert Kretschmer, P.O. Box 26 01 17, D-8000 Munchen 25, West Germany.

Sculptures/Proposals by John Sokol., a new book in the series by this sculptor who deals in visual poetry in sculptural form, is a series of drawings which also includes two actual color plates of realized sculpture. \$4.00 from Artworks.

Hender by Lucio Pozzi is a composite of textual fragments which Pozzi has manipulated to form a written collage, a story that is mysterious, rhythmical, brooding. *Hender* is about explorations, the mythical versus the metaphysical quest. Although the text seems random, there is an internal pattern established through the use of leitmotifs and interjections of practical commentary written in the artist's own printed hand. The photographs, also fragments, are counterpoint to the anti-fascist content of the text. The book seems like choreography for a ballet.

Published in an edition of 2000 by Street Editions, *Hender* is also offered in three hand-colored editions of 10 on Super Alfa, Arches and Fabriano papers. \$6.00 from Artworks and Printed Matter.

Back to Back by Telfer Stokes is a book of ambiguities and several meanings, of self-interpretation and of mystery, of photographs and of stones. The book format "created the need for a certain content, that a text in the first place provided links and this led to the need for further imagery that linked various bits and pieces together to make a whole thing."

Stokes relates a journey of two portagonists, who meet, set off to climb the hill, resting in the middle of the book and then set off again on the descent to the other side. The ascent to the top was as a pair of sheep; the journey down by water as fish. And perhaps the fall implies final demise.

The landscape used in the photos that illustrate this book has remained unchanged for millenia, probably remaining that way after our existence. In man's intervention, the constant has been the construction of small, circular stone shelters. Also the book begins with fire and ends with water. And so it goes, endlessly lending itself to many interpretations, and therefore full of enigma and mystery, and endless puzzles. \$9.50 from Artworks.

The Absent Words by Michael Gibbs serves as the catalog for his recent exhibition at the Stedelijk Museum, Schiedam during November through 7 December, but it is an artist's book in its own right. There is a conversation with Gibbs by Jorg Zutter, as well as a biography, bibliography and chronology. But the major part of the book are illustrations, entitled endangered species or emergent species, and the images are both direct and full of multiple meanings. Available from Stedelijk Museum, Hoogstaat 112, 3111 HL Schiedam, The Netherlands.

MOST OF THE BOOKS REVIEWED HERE ARE AVAILABLE AT ARTWORKS. Since Artworks is moving to a new location in the spring, all orders can be sent to Umbrella, P.O. Box 773-C, Pasadena, CA 91104 until the shop is relocated. Thank you so much for your patience and your assistance in this regard.