

ARTISTS' BOOKS: news and reviews

NEWS

Alice Whitman Leeds is exhibiting soft sculpted books and a dozen flying chairs in a show entitled *Perpetual Motif/Three Dimensional Puns* at Central Hall Artists in New York City at 386 West Broadway from 7 December - 31 December. Many of the books are constructed of handmade paper, vinyl, and leather. There are also machine written texts, done by sewing machine.

Backworks, 325 Spring St., New York, NY 10013 is selling titles from the Something Else Press at most reasonable prices. Ask them for their January 1982 List L115.

Paula Hocks' Running Women Press, 663 Washington Ave. no. 45, Santa Fe, NM 87501 has a list of limited edition and unique books, among which is *La Ronde, Notes for a Performance by the Sea*, a deluxe chapbook of 20 pages with poem-text-collage which comes in an edition of 10 copies on imported papers with real mirror cover, plus an edition of 10 copies soft-cover, hand-tie binding, imported endpapers. The signed copy is \$50, soft-cover for \$40.

Philadelphia Independent Publishers of Artists' Books is the first comprehensive view of such publishing in the Philadelphia area, published by Synapse, a Visual Art Press, with Suzanne Horvitz and Sandra Lerner as editors. For copies, write to Synapse, The Philadelphia IA5, 2401 Pennsylvania Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19130.

Edition Unika, Romerstr. 65, 7000 Stuttgart 1, West Germany showed books in the Frankfurt Book Fair by V. Ferrari, A. Flaig and others. Among the book exhibited was a catalog by Angelika Flaig with 68 pages, 37 illustrations, paper DM 120.

KLAB, a group of book artists from all over the world, has issued its first periodical, on the occasion of the Frankfurt Book Fair, in October. There is work by Christian Appel, Frankfurt; Peter Lyssiotis, Melbourne; and Axel Heibel, Düsseldorf. The periodical has various size pages depending upon each artist's work, and has an introduction in German, Italian and English. For more information, write to KLAB, Axel Heibel, Aachenerstr. 118, 4000 Düsseldorf 1, West Germany. The journal is DM 6 or \$2.50 US.

Buchobjekte-Kunstlerbucher-Objektbucher was a show that showed through the summer until 18 September at the Hessischen Landes- und Hochschulbibliothek in Darmstadt, organized by Hubert Kreschmer. A catalog in German documents the show and is available from the Hessische Landes- und Hochschul-Bibliothek, Schloss, 6100 Darmstadt.

Edition Hundertmark, Reinoldstr. 6, D-5000 Köln 1, West Germany has just celebrated its 10th anniversary and has available a list of books that they publish.

Davi Det Hompson, P.O. Box 7035, Richmond, VA 23221 has just issued a list of his own publications from 1976 - 1980.

The Writer's Center has moved to the former Brookmont School at 4800 Sangamore Rd., Bethesda, MD 20816, only 5 minutes away from its former facility.

Kevin Osborn has issued a brochure to potential buyers of his bookworks. For more information, write to Kevin Osborn, P.O. Box 11147, Arlington, VA 22210.

Artists' Books/Booked Art 1983 is a travelling exhibition of bookworks in Sweden organized by Leif Eriksson of the Swedish Archive of Artists' Books. Invitation is out to all artists and publishers to send bookworks to SAAB, The Swedish Archive of Artists' Books, Box 123, S-237 00 Bjärred, Sweden. Include with your bookworks the name of the artist, address, telephone, title, publisher, place of publication, and year. There are no returns, but the books will be on exhibit during 1983 and then be archived at the SAAB. Copy of catalog to all, which will also represent the first bibliography of SAAB's collection and Swedish bookworks. **Deadline: 30 November 1982.**

"The New Museum Without Walls" appeared in *Artviews* from Visual Arts Ontario. Written by Liz Wylie, the article covers Artists' Books, including information about where to show, print and learn about them.

Ariadne's Thread by Lyn Lifshin, an anthology of women's diaries, published by Harper & Row features "The Initiation of a Hack" by Sharon Wysocki, editor of *The Wire*, and Judith Kenyon Kirscht.

Bookspace, 703 S. Dearborn, Chicago recently had a signing party for Charles Slatkoff *On Being Obscure(d)* and Jane King's *Being in Love is Better than Being Poked in the Eye with a Red-Hot Poker*.

Nigel Greenwood Inc. Ltd. Books has issued List 24. You can get it from 41 Sloane Gardens, London SW1W 8EB.

Artist Book Event, La Chambre Blanche, 549 Boul. Charest est, Quebec, G1K 3J2, Canada continues from 7 October through 31 January 1983. Every two weeks, they change the format, allowing the space to serve almost like a studio. In November they had a conference and workshops. In January they will have a performance by Francine Saillant.

La Chambre Blanche has a Center for Information and Documentation on Contemporary Art, CIDA, as well as a new collection of information on artists' books. La Chambre Blanche is also an alternative space having exhibitions, films, video, visiting artists, artists-in-residence, and a bulletin serving the Quebec area. Guy Pellerin is the director.

REVIEWS

The Artist as Cartoonist

Unscientific Americans by Roz Chast (Dial Press, 1982, \$7.95 paper)

Jimbo by Gary Panter (Raw One-Shot, 1982, \$3.00 hardcover magazine)

Poetry Comics: A Cartooniverse of Poems by David Morice (New York, Simon & Schuster, 1982, \$6.95 paper)

January is Alien Registration Month, (1979), *Nuclear Pup* (1980) and *The Second Mongolian Invasion* by C. B. Murphy (1982) published by the Zoographic Press, Chicago.

Generally speaking, the new comics by the new artists are savage and energetic, not easy and innocent anymore, except

for a few die-hards. After an apathetic 50s where the Comics Code had put an end to the lurid, with sleazy crime and horror comics, the 60s produced the underground cartoonists who were both artists and storytellers, among whom was renowned Robert Crumb. The others who were his cohorts produced scurrilous, smutty little stories of their own. But while the 70s saw the underground comics languish, there were some new cartoonists who began publishing their own works and were called "new wave" to their followers. Gary Panter's *Jimbo* began appearing in Los Angeles' *Slash* magazine, Lynda Barry's *Two Sisters* and Ernie Pook's *Comeek* began showing up in Northwest publications, and Roz Chast's single-frame cartoons with titles appeared from time to time in the *Village Voice*, *Christopher Street*, and finally in *The New Yorker*. Then with the aid of the Xerox machine an assortment of artists, promoted by magazines such as *Wet* and *File*, put out their own limited edition magazines and mailed them all over the world.

Today, the major trade publishers have discovered these "new wave" cartoonists and have taken advantage of some of them by publishing their books for a much larger legitimate audience. Roz Chast, only 27, seemed to be the most commercially viable of all of them, with her work using spare but very detailed drawing style appreciated for tender characterizations of extraordinarily ordinary people, and her sensitive color greatly expanding the emotional range of basically humorous subject matter. In the volumes called *Unscientific Americans*, she has put together 126 cartoons in 3 little volumes called *The Small Pamphlet of Things*, *Mondo Boxo*, and *Somebody Goes to the White House*.

Gary Panter's *Jimbo*, an oversize, cardboard bound collection of full-page tabloid strips done for *Slash* from 1977-1980 is not easy reading. In fact, it takes a great deal of concentration, but gives you the most incisive explanation and apology for punk you can imagine. Not only is Panter known for his sophisticated graphic work, well recognized by the Europeans, but he is a master of language as well.

Poetry Comics by David Morice takes all the familiar sonnets you learned in high school from Shakespeare to Wordsworth to Emily Dickinson and illustrates them as if for a comic book and makes you shake with laughter. You may never read poetry with a straight face again. And in his own No. 17, *The Postcard Issue*, we have a reprinting of panels from the larger trade version published by Simon & Schuster. Whichever you choose, you'll have a great time. Morice never uses the same style twice, adapting style to verse, so we have fun trying to realize how much a master of drawing Morice is.

C. B. Murphy and his Zoographic Press, on the contrary, is one of those science fictional, newish wave artists who makes comics. *Nuclear Pup*, his first book, concerns the adventures of an irradiated-anthropomorphic canine hero on metaphysical and intergalactic intrigues only obliquely explained. *January's* tone is lighter and closer to the cartoons which shed light on the marriage of word and unusual slant which characterizes all of Murphy's work. His latest book, *The Second Mongolian Invasion* depicts the occupation of future American cities by a race which crosses Elliott Ness's Untouchables with the Spiders from Mars. There are 13th century reminiscences as well as flying saucers, Chicago architecture, obsessive zoomorphism, early 12th century mediums and more. Wild and hairy, the books can be ordered from

Zoographic Press, 29 West Hubbard, Chicago, IL 60610.

Label Stamps, Philatelic Photophily, Series R, Sections I & II are a series of four matchbook-like volumes of gummed label stamps. Those which are in gray/black photocopy have added metallic silver ink and until November 20 are \$4.00 each. Section II includes gummed label stamps containing a divided square, placed in a firm and stable environment but moving in and out of the division are small geometric forces. The color photocopy-Xerox unlimited edition, has added metallic gold and copper inks, signed and numbered, \$8.00 each. A 4-book set costs \$20.00 from Marilyn R. Rosenberg, 101 Lakeview Ave., West, Peekskill, NY 10566.

Cave Canem is a series of stories and pictures by Ericka Beckman, Jim Casbere, Kim Gordon, Jenny Holzer, Mike Kelley, J. D. King, Bill Komoski, John Miller, Tony Oursler, John D. L. Platt, Dan Walworth, Marty Winn (New York, Cave Canem Books, 1982, \$6.50). This is a most contemporary anthology of prose, poetry and illustrations by New York's finest. Available from Printed Matter for \$6.50 or from Cave Canem Books, 249 Broome St. no. 32, New York, NY 10002.

Wherever you Go, Wherever you Are, Consider This, the first book in the series of Secular Hermeneutics by Robert C. Morgan is a commentary upon contemporary American dependence upon gasoline and advertising. \$3.00 from RCM at RIT, One Lomb Memorial Dr., Art History Dept., P.O. Box 9887, Rochester, NY 14623.

Venice Beach Artists 1983, a celebration of some of the artists which have put this area on the map in recent years, done by Vivi Wiitala, an artist/ photographer who is interested in making this a ten-year project documenting the group. Printed in varnished duotone, the calendar retails for \$8.00 and can be purchased directly from the artist at 1806 Washington Way, Venice, CA 90291 or from Southern California Museum shops. Included are such artists as Charles Arnoldi, Laddie John Dill, Charles Kessler and Sheila Pinkel.

Interference by Philip Zimmermann is a book dedicated to Nikola Tesla and is done at the Nexus Press with the cooperation of Michael Goodman and Gary Lee Super. The color offset technique of this narrative about the effects of microwaves is vibrating off the page. The quality of the paper, printing and concept are exceptional in dealing with colorful, negative images of common objects which help make this book an unusually effective political statement. \$10.00 from Printed Matter.

Fond the Flamingo by Cynthia Stewart is a modern-day fairytale about the flamingo, whose community lives in the northern-most part of the world, and Fond just can't handle the cold. They find she is suffering from Blue Beak fever, and only the Fondness Ritual seems to cure it, and it did. A delightful book for \$20.00 from Artworks, 170 S. La Brea, LA 90036.

Primer Ritual Elements (Book One) is one of those wonderful books that one discovers not where one looks for it, but in an odd bookshop that features odd things like bookworks.

And is this a treasure. Printed at the Writer's Center with Kevin Osborn, Director, Gerald Claiborne, printer, and Barbara Shaw, typographer, Helen Brunner, archivist at the Visual Studies Workshop, has done a tour de force. The book is literally burned at its edges, has foldouts, pullouts, and deals with the meaning of language, the meaning of pictures and symbols, overprinting and typography, but all hauntingly reminiscent of mask, magic and information from another culture, a Native American culture. There is even a selected bibliography. For additional copies, write to Helen Brunner, \$13.00 postpaid, 46 Kron St., Rochester, NY 14619.

Implosion, a flip book which documents the destruction of the Olympic National Life Building in Seattle, established in 1906, and demolished in seconds on 28 February 1982 at 7:43 a.m. The photographs and book are by Mark Sullo, Estrela Press, 2318 Second Ave., Seattle, WA 98121. Available for \$3.50 from Art in Form.

Columns by Doris Cross is the first collection of the artist's highly original treated dictionary texts. This is a distillation of over 10 years of work, involving excerpting and treating directly with pen, ink, and paint columns from *Websters' Secondary School Dictionary*, 1913 edition. What Cross produces is a totally unique blending of word and image, part poetry and part painting.

The dictionary columns by Doris Cross have been internationally exhibited and acclaimed. As painter, teacher, sculptor, filmmaker and visual poet, Cross has had a long career both in New York City and now for the past 10 years in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Published by Trike, the book has 68 pages, 42 illustrations and costs \$12.00 plus \$1.00 postage and handling (6% sales tax for California residents) from Trike, 277 - 23rd Ave., San Francisco, CA 94121.

Domestic Philosophy (ed. of 500) by Christopher Burnett consists of images taken from magazines such as *House Beautiful* and *American Homes* published in 1941, 1951, 1964 and 1978. The artist/ photographer defines and redefines home in many ways through fantasy and fact, through imagination and reality. The book with no commentary from the artist except in his exacting introduction is self-explanatory but at the same time can be reinterpreted by each reader in his or her own way. Fascinating for \$4.00 from Printed Matter and from the artist at 2901 Santa Monica Ave., S.E., Albuquerque, NM 87106.

An Art History of Ephemera, Gretchen Garner's Catalog, is a series of photographs taken from 1976-1978 as an encyclopedia of the fantasy of America both real and man-made, indexed by subject, such as Animals (4 photographs to a page, 8 to each subject) including Arrows, Circles, Frames, Colored The book is a joy, bound with a spiral binding, like a scrapbook, exhibiting 216 photographs with 88 in color, arranged in 27 categories, a version of urban America seen in a most personal way. It makes you look at your own environment with different eyes! \$15.00 from Tulip Press, 10622 S. Hamilton, Chicago, IL 60643. A must! Add \$1.00 for shipping

Brief Marks by Jan Voss has 902 drawings printed on 10 perforated and gummed sheets published by Kontexts Publications in Amsterdam. The title is a take-off on the term for postage stamps which every foreigner finds in Post Offices in

Germany. This is an edition of 300, and the price is 25 guilders. Write to Kontexts Publications, 44 Overtoom, Amsterdam, Holland.

Reflectie 9 by Albert van der Weide is an installation designed by the artist and installed at the Museum't Coopmans-hus Franeker, the Netherlands in March 1982. The installation made of geometric configuration included thoughts by Yates, Shakespeare, Duchamp, Schonberg, and the artist. In Dutch and in English, beautifully printed and produced.

Reflectie 12 is an installation-performance by the artist held in the Stadswandelpark in Eindhoven, site of a new sculptural garden, from June through October 1982. Called Smash, the artist is portrayed, sitting in a chair in a depressed tomb-like hole in the earth with the cover of this rectangular depression mirroring the sky, the trees, or the light around it. The artist looks into this cover and then leaves. Both books are available from Albert van der Weide, Pels Rijckenstraat 6, 6814 DL Arnhem, Netherlands.

Aroldo Marinai in Florence, Italy publishes a magazine called *Meta*, runs a gallery, and also prints artists' books, postcards and posters, usually in the silkscreen technique. Some of the books are:

Lui(s) which is a gray paper with pink silk-screened letters on it, tactile, adventurous and the only words inside are "Love You" placed in different locations on each page. The last page is *Odolore(s)*, the names could be Luis for He(s) and Sorrow(s), or Dolores. A mixed metaphor, a beautiful conception. 5000 lire, ed. of 50.

Clair de Lune, a small visual diary of women, their professions, etc. indicated by a fleeting view with what artifacts they have left. Ed. of 500, 1200 lire.

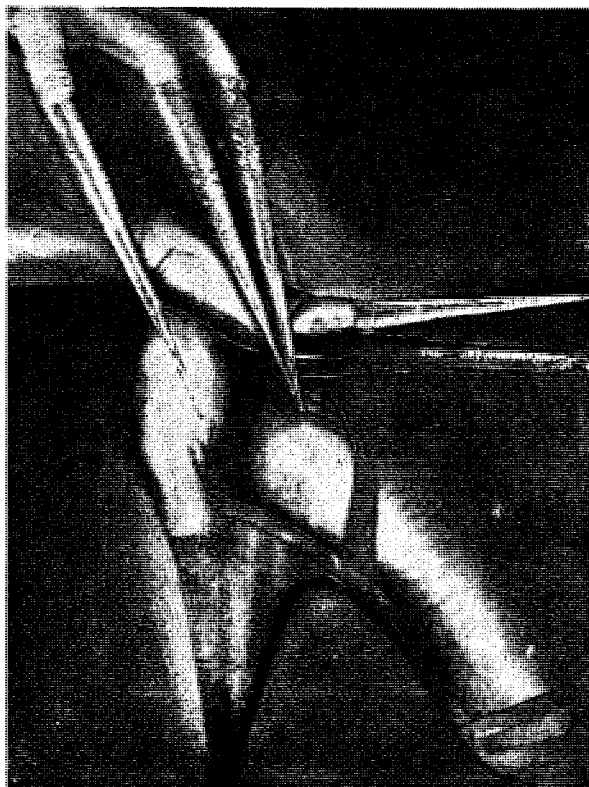
Frogmen, a sign on the walls as by chance by Aroldo Marinai and Silvia Marilli, parallels the many marks that are now being found on the streets of Soho in New York City. What Marinai did was to use a frogman and a mermaid and leave these small symbols on various walls in Florence, Italy where he lives. At first there was the thrill of the spray can, and then the fame by anonymity in the newspaper, and finally the legitimatization in the gallery situation and finally condemnation by the city of Florence. 3000 lire

Mappa della Campagna con Indicazioni (Country Map with Directions) is a charming fold-out map made with rubber stamps and silkscreen by hand by Marinai. Very limited edition, signed and numbered, \$12.00

The books can be ordered from Aroldo Marinai, Via San Zanobi 67, 50129 Firenze, Italy.

Trappen, Circles, De Kaartenmakers is a multimedia bookwork with the cooperation of Rein Jansma, Philip Glass and Jaap Goudsmit. This is a many-faceted experience. First, there is Phil Glass' record, an excerpt called *Circles* from *The Photographer*, then there is a whole history of mapmakers by Goudsmit and then a tour de force, a book in which each set of pages opens up like a set of stairs—a dynamic pop-up, pop-out architectonic work, engineered by Joost Elffers, responsible for the Anamorphic Art of a few years ago, published by Abrams. The book is available in the Art Book Shop on Staalstraat in Amsterdam, or from Postbus 16475, Amsterdam for \$30.00.

Vampyr with text by Stephen Spera and illustrations by Suzanne Horvitz is a collaboration of words and images that seems to blend into one. Spera's story of *Vampyr* is one of his most popular performances and this is the first time it is published in its entirety. Spera's story of *Vampyr* whose need for blood has diminished over the years, who lives in the upstairs middle room, is countered by eerie Xeroxed images of long fingernails, postage stamps, textiles and flowers allowing the images to work around text and the text to work around images. Printed on parchment paper at the Tyler Offset Workshop, this book haunts you. \$15 from Synapse Press in Philadelphia.



Kew, the Royal Botanic Gardens, is a magnificent presentation, a very large book that allows the artist to play with his 54 pages of beautiful photographs. Presented as a bound volume of large superimposed photographs, with a white cover embossed with silver letters, Kew depicts black and green photographs of plants, as well as of the Temperate House, perhaps the largest greenhouse in the world. The photographs are more evocative than depicting the actual plants and the building itself. It is a memory of Kew, done with the camera on location and the printing techniques of offset. What occurs is that the plant specimens themselves become architectonic and reflect more natural architecture than one really sees with the naked eye. In toto, the book becomes natural architecture, leaves become columns, fronds become rooflines. We are merely tempting you with words, for the book itself must be experienced. Published at the Writer's Center, Kew is available for \$28.00 postpaid directly from the artist, Lyle Rosbotham, 905 S. Walter Reed Drive, Arlington, VA 22204, or for \$25.00 from Artworks, Writers & Books, the Writer's Center, Bookworks and \$30 from Printed Matter.

Science-Art by Marilyn Curry is called by its title largely because she claims it is "science in the form of art" and the presentation is called "book-art" because it is art in the form of a book. The book, many of whose pages are printed on Ultra II paper (a translucent paper) deals with a circular orbit-like figuration which, when seen from both sides, is going in opposite directions at the same time. This, according to the artist, is true of a galaxy or an atom. These patterns of distance, time, motion and direction within the universe are in all matter. The book becomes not only a science lesson visually, but an aesthetic experience scientifically. It plays with your eyes and teaches you about time, motion, direction, light, waves, earthquakes, crystals and so much more. The book is a lesson in finding order and control in nature and finding beauty in the universe. The originals of the book have been shown in various galleries, but especially at the Oregon Museum for Science and Industry. \$10 from Marilyn Curry, 11650 Damascus St., Portland, OR 97229.

Initiation Dream by Pauline Oliveros and Becky Cohen creates a collaboration in which both artists learned about rites of passage. Pauline Oliveros, experimental musicians, and Becky Cohen, exploratory photographer, uncovered a means of collaborating by going their separate ways and coming together to discuss a dream of Pauline's via Becky's images, thus as Becky relates, the working together was not so much a series of conferences, but an exchange of gifts. The making of the book is almost as fascinating as the dream sequence of Pauline's, and since the world of ritual and meditation are integral to Oliveros' life and art, the book captures the artist and also captures the deeply-felt significance that Becky has accomplished in executing the book. \$10.00 from Astro Artz, 240 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Add 6.5% for California sales tax.

50 True Love Stories by Kit Edwardes is a photographic book of pages of a formerly published book of True Love Stories. One section on Heroes and History depicts English policemen armed with shields, Philosophy Made Simple is a book-page about the way police "capture" those who protest, and on and on. You can judge that the rest of the book-pages depict current events in photographic format with satirical, cunning titles and sub-titles. We think you will appreciate this book which is a commentary on contemporary English life as seen through a very politicized artist. Published by the Orchard Gallery, Orchard St. Londonderry BT48 6EG North Ireland, att: Declan McGonagle.

Allmähliche, Raumllich-Zeitliche Annäherung by Axel Heibel was published by the KLAB, the new organization of international book artists for the occasion of the Frankfurt Book Fair and distributed by Edition Unika in Stuttgart. The book is translated as "Gradual, Spatial-Temporal Approach" and is a continuation of Heibel's exploration of geometrical formats but this time using photographs that have been cut and echo the lines drawn on the page. The photographs are of the Eiffel Tower in Paris and can only be identified by previous recognition. Once again the translucent pages allow one to experience the book in many ways. The book is available from Printed Matter for \$10 or from the artist directly, Axel Heibel, Aachenerstr. 118, 4000 Dusseldorf 1, West Germany for DM 20. In a future issue of *Umbrella*, there will be an interview with Heibel.