

NEWS & NOTES

R.I.P. Artpaper, 1981-1993 was the cover of the October issue of this Minneapolis-based artist newspaper, published by the Visual Arts Information Service. It joins the demise of the **LAICA Journal** (1988), **WARM Journal** (1988), **Vanguard** (1989) **Stroll Magazine** (1989), **Studio International** (1990), **The Act** (1991), **Contemporanea** (1991), **Ear** (1991), **Clinton Street Quarterly** (1991), **Enclitic** (1991), **Motion Picture** (1991), **New North Artscape (Vinyl)** (1991), **Art International** (1992), **American Film** (1992), **Journal of Art** (1992), **Artscribe** (1992), **Arts Magazine** (1992), **Tema Celeste** (int'l ed.) (1993), and **Artpaper** (1993).

Favorite Titles of Exhibitions: *On taking a normal situation and retranslating it into overlapping and multiple readings of conditions past and present* (Antwerp)

SWISS PHOTO SHOW

In April & May the municipal Stauhof Museum in Zurich, Switzerland, will be showing a rare selection of historical photographs, movies, optical instruments and projection equipment, providing a survey of projection techniques and the development of photography from the 17th century to the present. Called "The World in the Box from Camera Obscura to Audiovision," all exhibits are the property of the GANZ collection, Zurich. Included will be a lifesize reproduction of the classical Daguerre Diorama as a special attraction.

NEW PERIODICALS

Midwest, edited by John McCormack and Robert Leonard, started as a reflection of contemporary art projects at the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery in New Plymouth, New Zealand. Opening with discussions of recent projects and exhibitions at the Gallery, it also included a look at the influence of the New Right, not only in New Zealand but also articles from Philip Wright (UK), Thomas McEvilley (US), and Leon Paroissien (Australia). Artists' pages are also included.

With No. 2 (1993), we read about Madonna, a two-day conference in

Rotterdam on Monotony and Conformism in the Exhibition Business, with papers by Donald Kuspit, Franz Meyer and Georg Bussmann, Paul Maenz, Milada Slizinska, Bice Curiger and Gregory Burke. A review of documenta IX by Wystan Curnow, and much more. No. 3 (1993), we find "An Art Journal" on the cover, seemingly dictating a broader base, and this issue addressed New Zealand biculturalism, meaning Maori vs. Pakeha, with articles by Barbara Kirschenblatt-Gimblett, Wystan Curnow, Raewyn Whyte, Brett Graham and Ian Wedde, among others, including artists' pages.

Nicely designed with a horizontal inclination, published 3 times a year, **Midwest** is available from P.O. Box 647, New Plymouth, New Zealand, or fax: (64-6) 758-0390 for subscription rates.

Felix, a journal of Media Arts and Communication, is a great "trip" into a cultural world which must be appreciated by the post-literate society we have become. Vol. 1, no. 2 (Spring 1992) dealt with "Shot/Reverse Shot: A Cross-Circuit Videologue" edited by Shu Lea Cheang and Kathy High. This is a treat to read, since typography and image play with each other, while video stills play with print images as well as typography. The issues involved in this journal are vital and current, including the work of many artists.

Vol. 1, no. 3 is vital information for book artists and all other readers--meaning all of us. This issue is about the convergence not of planets, but of books and video, music and landscapes, text and video, and so much more. In this age of virtual reality, this issue of **Felix** is reality, a new reality that we must deal with--the intermedial age! Contributors include Gary Frost, Charles Bernstein, the Wooster Group, Robert Ashley, with artists' pages by Anne Bray/Molly Cleator, Bruce & Norman Yonemoto, Anne Tardos and Jackson Mac Low, Peter Callas, and so many more. Guest edited by Marshall Reese, with covers by Nora Ligorano, this amazing issue of **Felix** is one you cannot put down. If you are interested in the future of the book and the future of society and the future of you, read this. Available at Printed

Matter or directly for a subscription (published irregularly 3 times a year) from P.O. Box 184, Prince St. Station, New York, NY 10012. \$15.00 for annual sub for individuals, \$21 for institutions.

Story Head includes prose fragments, true-life stories, and starkly honest poems, interspersed liberally throughout with artworks that **Story Head** has collected to illustrate the narratives, poems, etc. They have put out a call for paintings, drawings, collages for use in their magazine. In addition, they are also looking for writers, or a combo of writer/illustrator. It is a nicely designed journal, with fascinating relationships between text and image. Produced four times a year by Joe Peterson & Mark Brehm, **Story Head** is available for \$16.00 per year from 1340 W. Granville, Chicago, IL 60660.

Fluxus News

Geoffrey Hendricks appeared on 4 September at Artpool in Budapest. **Ben Vautier** had an open air show on the Liszt Ferenc square in Budapest 25 September - 10 October. **Rene Block** appeared at Goethe Institute in Budapest lecturing on Fluxus Music. December 2 brought Milan Knizak from Prague to Budapest to show his videos and slides of his work, while at **Artpool** from December 1993 - March 1994, there is an ongoing exhibition of documents by Fluxus artists and about Fluxus history. The archive at **Artpool** contains more than 100 books and catalogs, but **Artpool welcomes contributions of additional documentary material**. Send material to **Artpool**, H-1277 Budapest 23, Box/Pf. 52.

FAX ART & COPY ART

The International Journal of Arnyekkotok Electrographic Art published in Budapest is going to publish an issue on Fax Art. Wanted are artists who make fax-pictures or have information about using the fax machine as a communication tool for art purposes. Wanted: writings and essays on the possibilities of Fax Art; scientific, technological an art theoretical discussions; thoughts on terminology; critics and notes; description of creation techniques and methodology; graphics made by fax; documents and photo materials;

news and reports, invitations and initiations. All materials will be included in the Arnyekkotok Archives. Free copy of issue to all those who participate. Mail to Arnyekkotok Electrographic Art II-1034 Budapest, Timar utca 17, fax.3. Hungary.

The Disappearance of the Alphabet, an exhibition of 26 artists working on the photocopier, curated by Pati Hill, 8 December 1993, 31 January 1994 at Galerie Toner, Paris.

MUSEUM NEWS

The 20-year-old Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam plans to open a new gallery, with many works housed in storage to emerge as major works in this gallery. Auction prices in the 1980s have led to increased crowds of visitors to the museum, with more than 800,000 visitors in 1993. Only about 150 of the 209 works in the collection have been on view, but more will be included in this new gallery.

Paris: The first blockbuster at the new improved Louvre in 1994 is "Egyptomania" which will offer hundreds of objects from the Middle Ages to the present, including displays on operas and films that are inspired by both the myth and the reality of ancient Egypt.

Bonn: Europa-Europa--The Century of the Avant-Garde in Middle and Eastern Europe from 27 May - 16 October in the Kunst-und Ausstellungshalle, Bonn will show works from more than 200 20th-century artists from central and eastern Europe.

Lisbon: This city has been named European Cultural Capital in 1994, with restored buildings, redesigned parks and gardens, the Museum of Musica opening in June with one of the best collections of musical instruments in Europe. "Subterranean Lisbon" will be seen in the Museu de Arqueologia--from the Phoenicians to the medieval age via the Romans, Visigoths and the Christians in Moorish times. "The Temptations of Bosch, or the Eternal Recurrence," will be seen opening in April at the Museu Nacional de Arte Antiga, bringing together works by Bosch, Durer, Goya, Rousseau, Dali, Magritte, Giacometti and many others. Music, dance, theater, 100 films in 100 days, etc. will also be featured, and for the best festival of all, the Feast of St. Anthony on 13 June.

Los Angeles. About \$23.5 million will be awarded to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, as a result of a legal dispute involving Christian Science literature. The Boston-based First Church of Christ, Science, LACMA and Stanford University will divide the contested bequests of about \$100 million from the Knapp families, when Bliss Knapp's 1945 biography of the church's founder, Mary Baker Eddy, was refused publication by the Church since it contradicted church doctrine, but they relented when Knapp and his wife left the church a fortune, contingent upon publication of the biography as "authorized" church literature and distribution to "substantially all" Christian Science reading rooms worldwide. If the church did not comply, the money was to be divided between the museum and the university. But the book was published in 1991, and LACMA and Stanford filed suit, charging that disclaimers issued with the book and incomplete distribution violated terms of the wills.

PUBLIC ART

Stockholm's 110 kilometer-long Metro is full of hundreds of works of art: sculptures, paintings, mosaics and engravings, wall murals and underground grottos. There is even an underground garden with waterlily ponds. A \$3.00 one-day tourist card allows you to see all the art, with an illustrated brochure to show you where they are. Competitions from 1950 on, when the first subway line was opened, have created commissions for artists and architects.

WILD ART

Garbage Art

Yuji Agematsu goes for walks, picking up bits of lint, fake finger nails, dead insects, grass and old toy jacks and turns them into art. Called "collection", the series of 360 small, clear plastic bags filled with trash was on display at TZ' Art & Co. in Soho during November. He started collecting trash in 1985. "I used to collect objects which are easy to read, crushed Coke cans, antiques. I gradually started to collect objects with no meaning." A part-time cleaner in art galleries, he annotates where and how he found his treasures. He keeps a tiny, neat journal recording the reading on his pedometer when he finds an object.

And he writes down his daily route, including the exact number of steps he has taken.

He says that "picking up", as Mr. Agematsu refers to his calling, can be perilous work. "You have to be really quick. You could get hit by a car." And he says there's always something around to exclaim, "that's mine, that's mine."

Freeway Art

15 neon horses will adorn the countryside between Salem and Eugene in Oregon, created by a mechanical engineer turned artist, Martin Anderson. A kind of Oregon does Christo, since property owners were asked by the artist to "pasture a neon horse." The horses will be up during the three darkest months, mid-November to mid-February.

Chain-Saw Art

Collectors, art colonies, and performing practitioners are carving a niche in the popular art world. One, a 52-year-old logger-turned-chain-saw sculptor, carves names on wooden belt buckles while their owners wear them. He has also carved the entire alphabet on a No. 2 pencil, a feat recognized by Ripley's Believe It or Not!

Shoe Art

A plethora of shoe art exhibitions have appeared for the past two years, including the work of Gaza Bowen, who crafts high heels that mock traditional sex roles, or Rebecca Horn's sculpture "Prussian Blue Bride", which has eleven steel rods shooting out from the wall, and 11 high-heeled white pumps twisting in the air at the end of them, or Ralph Brancaccio who is lining up 25,000 pairs of shoes for a "Silent March" at New York's City Hall. For the event, Brancaccio is collecting shoes belonging to people with AIDS. The shoes are to be piled up around the building.

Scatological Art

Todd Allen is collecting feces from 90 art collectors, to investigate and re-think the Italian artist, Piero Manzoni's epoch-making work, **Merda d'artista** (Artist's Shit) from 1961. In this work, Manzoni produced, conserved, and tinned 90 cans of his own feces, which he then sold for the price of the day's gold. Originally, Manzoni's sculptures were laughed at and dismissed by contemporary critics and collectors as an act of mere Duchampian provocation. Recently,

however, the cans of **Artist's Shit** that found few buyers in 1961 are now being sold for as much as \$75,000. Alden plans to conserve these feces in the manner of Manzoni, in personalized tins with labels in a number of languages. Each can will be accompanied by a certificate of authenticity signed by the producer of its contents and Allen.

MEDIA NEWS

The Second New Visions International Festival of Film and Video will take place from 4 - 8 May 1994 in Glasgow, Scotland.

LIBRARY CLOSINGS

When is a library not a library? When it's in Merced County, California. The county's library system, fated to close for want of money, has been rescued, in a fashion, by the Merced City Redevelopment Agency. But that still won't fulfill a wish list. The money opens one branch library for all of 16 hours a week. And it won't cover, among other things, reference services, new books, overdue notices, children's story time or class visits. Read it and weep.

CENSORSHIP

During the final phase of restoration of the Sistine Chapel, it has been decided some of the 38 "modesty breeches (pronounced britches)" added over the centuries at the instruction of Pope who believed that Michelangelo had painted altogether too much of some of his saints and sinners. Those were added in the 17th and 18th centuries at the whim of later pontiffs were all in tempera with the original underneath, and they are in the process of deciding which ones to keep. They are going to leave the ones done by Daniele da Volterra in the 16th century and take away the later additions.

Michelangelo himself dressed Christ and his mother. He also draped strategic bits of cloth here and there and coiled a cobra around the private parts of a hell-bound fat man with donkey's ears. The reason why the Da Volterra breeches will be preserved is because it is believed that Da Volterra, painting over parts of the masterpiece, may have saved "The Last Judgment" even as he defiled it. The Council of Trent ordered paintings destroyed elsewhere in Rome but made an exception with Michelangelo. It seems that

they put the scaffold in January 1564, and left it there for two years to accomplish a very little work, largely to screen the painting from mind and eye until impulses that might have destroyed it had dispelled. Da Volterra did not paint until 1565, and when he died in 1566 it was still there.

Dateline China: New strict regulations on art dealers and sales of paintings have been reported, widening the crackdown on arts and entertainment by the Ministry of Culture. It will not be impossible for artists to sell works the government finds offensive. Under the new rules, all art dealers, joint ventures in art businesses and even international arts events involving Chinese artists must have government approval.

Ontario, Canada. Censorship is rearing its ugly head throughout Canada, thanks to a new child-pornography law. "I am not a pornographer", says Eli Langer, who was charged for showing sexually explicit drawings and paintings in a Toronto gallery. The Bill C-128 defines child pornography as any photograph, film, videotape or other visual material that shows "sexually explicit activity" involving people under 18 or depicted as being under 18. Making, displaying, importing, distributing or, for the first time, merely possessing such material is punishable by a maximum prison term ranging from 5 - 10 years. Of course, there is an exemption for material with educational, scientific, medical or artistic merit. But you have to prove it! So at the Mercer Union Gallery, the police came in and carted away a few armloads of paintings (5 of the 8 on exhibit) and 35 of the 50 drawings, and after consulting a prosecutor, lay charges against the artist, apparently without any reference to a higher legal (or artistic) authority. The gallery director was also charged with possessing and displaying child pornography in the same case. "I'm here today as an artist...[My work] is the result of 2 1/2 years of effort to address both personal and social issues." The drawings show children performing both oral and anal sex, while of the paintings shows two naked figures, a little girl sitting on the lap of an old man. Another painting shows a little girl sitting across the neck of a man who is lying on his back and has an erection.

According to free speech advocate Max Allen, it is now legal for Canadians over the age of 14 to have sex, but illegal to make art that shows them having it, even if the characters involved are purely fictional. "People have lost sight of the difference between imaginary images and real people."

Leonardo (Vol. 16, no. 5, 1993), guest edited by Sheila Pinkel is dedicated to **Art and Social Consciousness**. This issue shows how artists are using contemporary technologies or other contemporary art forms in the process of commenting on the cultures in which they live. The cover shows a piece by Helen and Newton Harrison, who have been experimenting for the past 25 years with biodynamic, water-related artworks. Agnes Denes is an artist who draws upon the fields of philosophy, logic, linguistics, psychology, anatomy, botany, biography, ethics and theology as well as technology in her work. Michael Tidmus is represented by a survey of his Hypercard computer projects; Nancy Buchanan discusses Information Art and the use of Low-End Electronics for individual and community projects. Ben Caldwell writes about KAOS, video, teleconferencing and community networks; Lynn Hershman writes about Interactive artwork, and other forms of subversion. Esther Parada writes about digital revision as cultural dialogue, using the computer to comment on aspects of history that have been ignored or were never reported. Joyce Cutler Shaw and Jeffrey Schulz use the subject of virtual reality as metaphor in addressing a sense of spatial dislocation and bodily fragmentation. Carole Conde and Karl Beveridge write about community arts practice and technology, having a love-hate relationship with computers and technology, opting for traditional approaches to making photographic images. Many other artists have articles, or are cited.

Paul Von Blum writes about 20th Century developments in North American Political Art, giving a new perspective from a historical point of view to the art discussed in this socially aware environment. A most important issue of a journal which usually focuses on the physical aspect of art and technology. Hurrah for the new approach! Available from MIT Press, Cambridge, MA.

RESOURCES

The Alternative Gallery Archive/Archive of Alternative/Antiauthoritarian Culture and Galactic Ecology was founded in 1982 in Athens by four people, to create a useful source of information for individuals and groups of the movement in that area of the world.

Self-financed, the Archive grows only through donations and complimentary subscriptions to journals throughout the world. At this moment, it contains about 2,000 periodicals and books.

The Archive list is updated every two years, and Xeroxed materials are available to anyone who requests a title from the list for postage. The latest edition was published in Fall 1991. The people who make use of the Archive pay a symbolic "lifetime" membership fee of \$25.00. The requested Xeroxed copies are then forwarded upon request, the only extra charge being the photocopying cost. The topics range from Native Peoples to Paganism, Gay/Lesbian Culture to Music/Movements, etc. For more information write to A.G. Archive, P.O. Box 20037, GR-11810 Athens, Greece.

Tellus, the audio magazine series of experimental and innovative sound, has issued a 10th anniversary catalog, which allows one to order the Complete Tellus for \$500.00 or audiotext works, new music, sound works by artists, or underground network series. Write to Tellus, 596 Broadway, Suite 602, New York, NY 10012 or call (212)431-1130.

Museum of Modern Art, New York City has published an updated **Books in Print** listing titles published through 1993, with a sheet showing the additions published in 1993 and early winter 1994. Write to MOMA, 11 W. 53rd St., New York, NY 10019.

Book Prices: Used and Rare, 1994 is a key reference, packed with prices and valuable bibliographical information on carefully chosen titles in all the major subject areas. With 800 pages, over 30,000 entries, this volume concentrates on listings for those books that are most likely to be bought and sold in the daily operation of a general used bookstore--from \$20 to \$300 price range. Included are modern first editions, Americana and the WEST Civil War, voyages and travel, art, architecture, theater, medicine, science, natural history, and books on books. Also included are prices on children's books, paperback originals, etc. For more information, contact The Spoon River Press, 2319-C West Rohmann, Peoria, IL 61604. \$68.00 plus \$3.00 postage and handling.

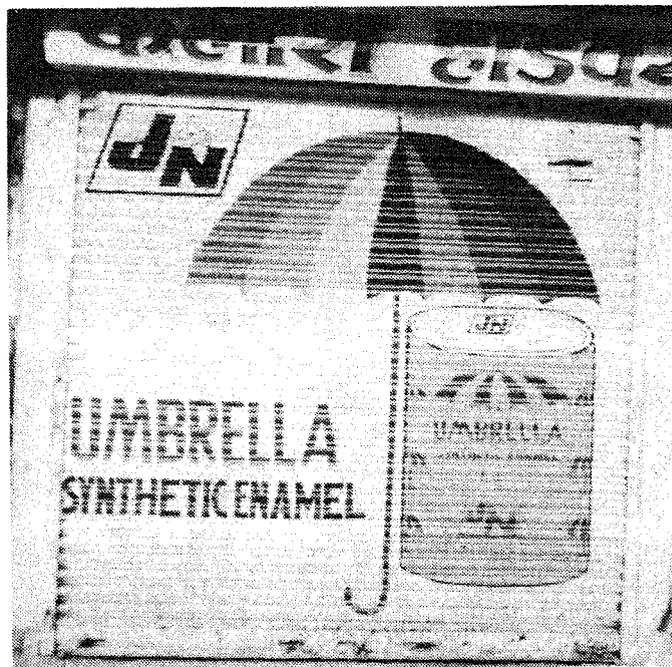
VACATION WITH ART IN TAOS, NEW MEXICO. Sas Colby has organized 1994 Art Retreats to be held 22-28 May (Mask & Myth Making), 3-9 July (Art & Nature Indian Pow Wow), 10-16 July (Artist's Books & Journals) and 25 September - 1 October 1994 (Creative Processes, San Geronimo Feast Day). Write to Sas at Box 6129 NDCBU, Taos, NM 87571 or call (505)751-3667 or leave messages only at (800)839-2930.

Directory of People of Color in the Visual Arts, published by the College Art Association, 275 Seventh Ave., New York, NY 10001, is available for \$7.50 (members) and \$9.00 non-members. Included in this 72-page publication are over 750

individuals of African American/black, Asian, Hispanic/Latino, Native America, and other nonwhite descent who are artists, art historians, museum professionals, arts administrators, art students, or other arts professionals.

Space/Volume, 5th International Mail Art Show. Sculpture, Painting, Drawing, Installation, any medium. Send your c.v. and a phone or a copy of your identification. Documentation to all. Those responsible for this exhibition want to create an open-air gallery on a marvelous site in Caritel, Spain. **Deadline: 15 March 1994.** Send to Space/Volume, Centro Cultural Alborada, Caritel (36829), Pontevedra, Spain.

FOR ALL UMBRELLA READERS: I have closed my box in Glendale after 20 years. Please **change** your address for **Umbrella** to P.O. Box 40100, Pasadena, CA 91114 USA. The phone and fax are (818)797-0514. Hit 777 if you cannot get through with your fax.



UMBRELLAS IN NEPAL

from Peter & Angela Netmail