

FROM THE EDITOR

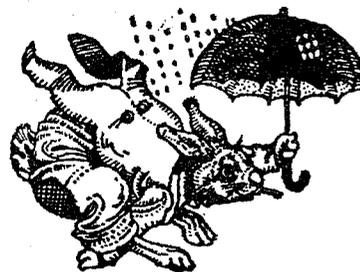
If this issue seems different, it is. My computer hard-disk crashed, and I was incapacitated in more ways than one for more than a week. As a result, this issue, which should have been out in early November was delayed until I could get back and running, having retrieved most of my information, and especially the Umbrella file, which had myriads of book reviews and news already written. The crash was bigger than the computer, for it allowed me to realize how important you all are to my well-being, both physical and mental. My first duty is to myself, of course, but work makes my world go round and communication really is my *raison d'être*. As a result, I found that I was even baking Hillary's cookies to keep busy--and stop reading. And I had so much to write, but really could not with justification, since I would have to repeat myself on the computer--and so I have a word to all of you with computers. **Back up your hard disk at least every 30 days--and back it up even more frequently, if you are working on a project. Back up on tape, if you can afford it, rather than diskettes, but back up!** There is no other way to tell you how drastic this crash was to my well being. It was devastated, almost as if I had died inside, and I am only now healing. I felt at a loss to you all--and at a loss to me, but perhaps it might have ended *Umbrella* altogether, but it is **not what you know, but whom you know that counts.** Friends have come through and a computer dealer as well--and now with a new computer, that will get me on the Network next year, well--watch out, world, read me on the Internet in 1995. As it stands, I have a new computer and a reason to write faster and better--and have a weekly update on the Internet. Perhaps I will publish all competitions and exhibitions for all of you to connect without print publication. I will have to do this for some kind of subscription, but we shall see what electronic publishing can do for you and for me. They tell me that Mercury was out of retrograde when all this happened, but disasters happened to several other people in Los Angeles that Friday afternoon, so I think the gods were trying to tell us something--perhaps about the impending doom of the elections in the United States, and our own mortality.

Now, if you wish to help me heal even more quickly, **renew your subscriptions right now,**

since postal rates will be going up in 1995 and will make my ability to reach you more expensive. I have not changed my rates, so please, **renew now** and help continue this publication and take advantage of the **prepublication** special rate for Buzz Spector's book which I am publishing in early 1995. It will contain all his writing on artist books and will be invaluable, since he is one of our leading theorists.

I wish you all a Happy New Year. May it be full of no crashes and only triumphs, of peace and an attempt at prosperity, at mostly peace of mind. Think of our friends who are ailing, who are being terrorized by disease or enemies, and remember they deserve your thoughts and efforts. Artists who make books are no different than any creative human beings who are attempting to survive this new industrial revolution, as well as this social upheaval. We have gone through alot together. Let's make it a better 1995. **Renew today and help us continue to publish in this 18th year.**

P.S. I am desperately in need of a copy of Volume 1, no. 3 in as pristine condition as possible. I will guarantee that you will get it back in Xerox copy, but please, please, any of my charter subscribers--please find me a Volume 1, no. 3 and send it to me posthaste. My gratitude will be unending!



Umbrella is an occasional newsletter, focusing on artists' publications and twentieth-century art documentation including books by artists, as well as artists' periodicals with news and reviews. *Umbrella* is published by Umbrella Associates, and the Editor is Judith A. Hoffberg, P.O. Box 40100, Pasadena, CA 91114. Phone/Fax for Editorial Office is: (310)399-1146. Subscriptions are available for the calendar year only, payable in American currency. ©1994 by Umbrella Associates.