

FROM THE EDITOR

It has been a long, late summer here in Southern California, one which most of us will not forget for a long time, since the 8 weeks of debilitating humidity (something very odd for those of us who live in a desert climate) have taken its toll on productivity and a feeling of "well being" in a mostly moderate climate. Instead, we have had high temperatures and very high humidity. Many an evening while working, the sweat has literally poured down my face. You who live in tropical climates have swamp coolers and air conditioners. Some of us don't usually come equipped when it has not been necessary except for about two weeks a year. Now, El Niño rears its young and threatening head above us all, and weather conditions are all askew as of this reading.

And besides mourning the passing of such artists as Doug Huebler and Roy Lichtenstein, James Lee Byars and Dora Maar, we mourn the devastation in Umbria in Italy where the Basilica di S. Francesco has been hit with disastrous destruction, and the remnants of Giotto and Cimabue frescoes lie on the ground. Michael Kimmelman's recent trip to Italy as reported in 4 October New York Times is the best indication of the devastation so far in the American papers. But Italians are magicians, and they have been hit by floods and fire, and perhaps they will repair and restore as much as they can to previous conditions, but Mother Nature certainly has been angry. My beloved Assisi will appear to be the same, but it will never be.

And because we are celebrating our 20th anniversary this year, we wish to let you know that you can all participate in the celebration by becoming a subscriber to the 20th Anniversary Anthology of Umbrella. For a short time, we are offering our subscribers the chance to pre-pay for the volume at a minimal cost of \$20.00 to ensure publication of this important document. If you wish to become a patron, you can donate \$50.00 or more and you will receive the 1998 subscription to Umbrella and the Anthology, as well as a small token of our appreciation with a special gift.

So please help Umbrella to publish this anthology, so that the past issues can be condensed into a book which will go on the shelves, we hope, of every art library both public and private. We need your help to do this, so please replay by 31 December for this special offer. The price will go up after the first of next year.

And there is still room for artists to prepare an 8½ x 11" page for inclusion in the Anthology. The theme should be 20th Anniversary, but knowing artists, they can manipulate a theme to suit their

own talents. The deadline for artists' pages is also 31 December 1997.

Another wonderful institution is being threatened with real estate problems. My friend, David Wilson, created a museum that has already been on every tourist map in Los Angeles. It is a place where reality, fantasy, mysticism, logic, superstition, science and aesthetics meet, for the Museum of Jurassic Technology defies any categorization. Many of us know where it is, but are hesitant in telling you what it is about or what secrets it contains. Just let me say that this a place where the exhibitions are mostly based on science, but there is no academic flavor to all of this. The exhibits are created with poetic metaphors, and the language is visual. But the intent is to spread knowledge as well as belief.

In Lawrence Weschler's *Mr. Wilson's Cabinet of Wonder*, we learn about bats that can fly through lead barriers, spore-ingesting pronged ants, elaborate theories of memory, and a host of other oddities which challenge the traditional notions of truth and fiction. Now the new owners of the building, which Mr. Wilson leases, is being threatened with being divided and therefore, obliterating the 10 years of hard work Wilson has done to create the exhibitions to fit the venue. It is like moving a pyramid to a grassy knoll rather than keeping it in the desert. We ask you all, if you can spare any money or become a member of the Museum, please send your \$35.00 or more to the Museum of Jurassic Technology, 9341 Venice Blvd., Culver City, CA 90232 and support this Museum of Wonders.

I have also put together a large exhibition of artist books under the title: Women of the Book, Jewish Artists, Jewish Themes. The show is available for rental after January 1997. If anyone wishes to book this exhibition of over 100 bookworks from 87 artists from Australia, New Zealand, Italy, Israel, Canada and the U.S., please contact me.

As for *Umbrella*, please remember to renew your subscription early. It will help defray postage costs, besides printing. We really need your support for the coming year. And if you wish a copy of the Anthology at pre-publication rates, please send in your money before 31 December.

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