

# ARTIST BOOKS

## NEWS

Printed Matter, Inc. is very pleased to announce that it has signed a ten-year sub-lease agreement with Friedrich Petzel to take 1,200 square feet of ground floor space at 535 West 22nd Street (between 10th and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenues).

Printed Matter is thrilled to be joining Friedrich Petzel, CRG, Julie Saul, Frederieke Taylor, Leslie Tonkonow, and Yancy Richardson in this fantastic newly renovated Chelsea building.

Printed Matter is overjoyed to find a new home after an exhaustive search for real estate. Since 1989 Printed Matter has rented its 77 Wooster Street location from the Dia Center for the Arts. The staff and board of Printed Matter remain grateful to Dia for the opportunity to best promote artists' publications from this fantastic SoHo site.

Printed Matter anticipates closing its Wooster Street location in January 2001 and reopening on 22nd Street shortly thereafter. Printed Matter is also happy to announce an exhibition of the artists' books, posters, and ephemera by Sol LeWitt to open on November 15 and run through December 22. This exhibition will coincide with three other LeWitt exhibitions in New York his retrospective at the Whitney Museum of American Art; and gallery shows at PaceWildenstein and Paula Cooper Gallery.

Printed Matter was founded in 1976 by Sol LeWitt along with Carl Andre, Edit DeAk, Lucy Lippard, Walter Robinson, Pat Steir, Mimi Wheeler, Robin White and Irena von Zahn to be a retailer and wholesaler of artists' books. Over its 24 years history Printed Matter has expanded its interest from artists' books to a more broad range of artists' publications including audio works, video works, multiples, and digital works.

Printed Matter's current board members are Philip Aarons [Board President], Robert Rainwater [Board Vice President], Bethany Johns [Board Secretary], Paul Daitz [Board Treasurer], AA Bronson, Susan Harris, Jon Hendricks, David Leiber, Mary Lum, Carolina Nitsch, Michael Steinberg, and Brian Wallis.

For additional information please contact David Platzker, Director of Printed Matter, at (212) 925-0325 or at [dplatzker@printedmatter.org](mailto:dplatzker@printedmatter.org). Printed Matter, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Our mission is to foster the appreciation, dissemination, and understanding of publications made by artists. Printed Matter is supported in part by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, The Roy and Niuta Titus Foundation, The Schoenstadt Family Foundation and private foundations and individuals worldwide.

Printed Matter, Inc. is not affiliated with, nor a division of, the Dia Center for the Arts.

**Submit Papers to The Journal of Artists' Books (JAB)**, founded in 1994 to provide a forum for the lively and critical debate about artists' books and their contents. JAB publishes articles, interviews, book reviews and exhibition reviews twice a year. Send papers to JAB, c/o Nexus Press, 535 Means St., Atlanta, GA 30318. For information call (404)577-3579.

**Miriam Schaer**, book artist from Brooklyn, participated in a dance performance of the Dance Theater Workshop in New York City, with the dancers using her amazingly flexible books as props in "Embrace" on 14 - 16 December at the Williamsburg Art Nexus.

Some of Schaer's books, like those made from toddler clothing, have been previously exhibited and others were created specifically for this piece. The text is based on the experiences of the performers, as well as original text from the Dick and Jane Readers.

**Buzz Spector** showed "The Artist and His Books" at the Marsha Mateyka Gallery in Washington, DC from 6 - 28 October.

## Paperbacks with Music

A new type of book, geared toward black urban youth, meant to be more than just read, is now on the market packaged with a CD, with tracks by various artists, who have more or less donated their work. First to be sold in record stores and gear and clothing shops where the young urban blacks shop, each book will contain six or seven one page color ads, measures 6 x 6 inches, have a shimmery cover with a parental warning and sell for \$16.98. It's to attract a public that would never think of buying a book.

## Artist Book makes City Lights

A year ago, *Umbrella* reviewed a new labor of love by Felicia Rice, the **Codex Espangliensis: From Columbus to the Border Patrol**, by Enrique Chagoya, with text by performance artist Guillermo Gómez-Peña and Rice's design with its accordion-fold pages, modeled after ancient codices, has recently been issued by City Lights Books in San Francisco. From a bloodstained Superman flying over a 16<sup>th</sup>-century image of Indians being tortured and killed by the Spanish conquistadors, as well as a smiling Mickey Mouse, looking on as Columbus's soldiers cut off the hands of the Caribbean natives, this codex's tale of conquest, colonization, and border crossing now has the best kind of distribution. Congratulations!.

**Keith Smith** announces a new book, *200 Books: an Annotated Bibliography* for \$35, available unbound in sheets or hardcover. The text and pictures describe 199 previous books by Keith Smith with over 550 photo reproductions. Text gives background of the author and describes why each book was made with references to other artists. Sometimes there are detailed descriptions of how the imagery was technically achieved. This book is an autobiography, as well as a bibliography. You can see the book on <http://net2.netacc.net/~ksbooks> or order from Keith Smith Books, 22 Cayuga St., Rochester, NY 14620-2153.

**The Movable Book Society's** Newsletter, *Movable Stationery*, for November 2000 features all the events during the "Brooklyn Pops Up! The History and Art of the Movable Book" exhibition in detail with Robert Sabuda, Ann Montanaro and Ellen G.K. Rubin as curators. For membership and information, contact P.O. Box 11654, New Brunswick, NJ 08906. Or e-mail: [montanar@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:montanar@rci.rutgers.edu)

**Luc Fierens** (Postfluxpostbooklets, "Fluxus Belgium" box and Social Art mail art catalog) was part of the exhibit, *Manumissio: Livres d'Art et d'artistes* from 14 - 17 December at the Galerie Les Contemporains, in Brussels, Belgium. Other artists showing were Peter Downsborough, Eddy Devolder, Jacques Lennep, Juan d'Outremont, Jean Francois Octave, Bernard Villers, Jean Pierre Verheggen and Editions Yellow Now, Flux News, Edition Lebeer-Hossmann, Le Daily-Bul, Editions Camomille, etc.

**The National Gallery of Canada, Library and Archives** has initiated a series of brochures to accompany its exhibition program. The series is called Library and Archives Exhibition and to date it has covered topics such as Ian Hamilton Finlay, General Idea and Art Metropole and the latest is reviewed here. Copies are available gratis from Peter Trepanier, Head, Reader Services, National Gallery of Canada, 380 Sussex Dr., P.O. Box 427, Station A, Ottawa, Ont. K1N 9N4 Canada.

Michael Kasper has a new publication, **Coronamundi: Asian-Breakfeats**, an illustrated essay in volume 4, number 1 (July 2000) which is a selected, illustrated, annotated discography of what is considered Asian-Underground or Indipop, etc. This publication is available from Kasper (for a lifetime subscription of \$50 you get them all) from coronamundi, P.O. Box 60361, Florence, MA 01062.

**Quotidian Objects: Goethe/Grcic** at the Casa di Goethe, Rome, in collaboration with the Goethe-Nationalmuseum,

Weimar from 22 November 2000 - 29 January 2001 involves Munich designer Konstantin Grcic selecting everyday objects from the encyclopedic personal collection of Johann Wolfgang Goethe. Almost seventy, often strikingly modest, artifacts are installed by Grcic in the erstwhile Roman residence of the poet, Goethe. Never before exhibited or published, these pieces include boots, suspenders, buttons, paperweights, dice cups, and an assortment of curious boxes. A catalog, published by Charta, Milan, accompanies the exhibition. It is an artist book, graphically conceived by the designer. The book is in German/Italian/English featuring an interview with Grcic by Ludovico Pratesi, an essay by Cornelia Lauf about Grcic. The second installation will open 13 February 2001 by Katharina Sieverding who will emphasize the natural sciences collection of Goethe.

## ARTIST BOOK EXHIBITIONS

### EUROPE

**Volumes (of vulnerability).** Buchgalerie Mergemeier, Luisenstr. 7, 40215 Dusseldorf, Germany from 16 November - 16 December. First showing in London, curated by Susan Johanknecht and Katharine Meynell; curated in Germany by Ulrike Stoltz. Includes work by Sophie Artemis, Caroline Bergvall, Stephen Bury, Helen Douglas, Liliane Lijn, Colin Sackett, Claire Van Vliet among others.

**British Books, Objects, Prints.** Curated by Susanne Padberg, Galerie Druck & Buch, Tubingen, Germany. 10 November - 10 January 2001. Includes work by Andrew Bick, Les Bicknell, Ken Campbell, John Christie, Simon Cutts, Julia Farrer, Alec Finlay, Ian Hamilton Finlay, Hamish Fulton, Andy Goldsworthy, Mel Gooding, Susan Johanknecht, Ron King, Sol LeWitt, Liliane Lijn, Bruce McLean, Colin Sackett, Terry Smith, Ian Tyson and Matthew Tyson.

**Libri Mai Mai Visti (Books Never Ever Seen)**, originally seen at the Casa Italiana at New York University in April 2000, returns to its origins in Russi, Italy, where this competition of handmade artist books were reviewed for cash prizes. This is the Sixth Edition of this exhibition, from 8 December 2000 - 16 January 2001. For more information contact VACA, via XXV April 18, 48026 Russi - RA, Italy. Or [vaca@vaca.it](mailto:vaca@vaca.it)

**Masters of European Comic Books.** Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris, to 7 Jan. 2001.

**Italian Illuminations: The Library of the Duc d'Aumale** at the Musée Condé, Chantilly 60631, France until 1 January.

## NORTH AMERICA

**Scott McCarney: Artists' Books from the Arts of the Book Collection**, Yale University Library, 4 December - 28 February 2001. Sterling Memorial Library, New Haven, CT.

**Scott McCarney Book Projects**, 28 November 2000 - 20 January 2001, PABA Gallery, 1044 Chapel St., New Haven, CT.

**Susan Bee: New paintings, artist's books**. 3 October - 15 December at the Herbert H. Lehman Suite and Papers in the School of International Affairs at Columbia University, New York City.

**Walter Hamady**. Woodland Pattern Book Center, 720 E. Locust St., Milwaukee, WI from 24 September - 31 December.

**Something Else Press: Complete Published Works** plus other related material from 26 October - 18 November 2000 at Art Metropole. Many titles are available from Art Metropole, 788 King St. West, Toronto, Ont. Canada M5V 1N6. [Info@artmetropole.org](mailto:Info@artmetropole.org) or [www.artmetropole.org](http://www.artmetropole.org)

**Stephanie Later: Mix media book art** at the Atlantic City Art Center, Boardwalk and New Jersey Ave., Atlantic, City, NJ from 5 November - 30 November.

**To Infinity and Beyond: Editions for the Year 2000: Artists' Books + Editions '00** from 3 November - 23 December 2000. Brooke Alexander Gallery, New York City.

**Manyfold Books - II**. Donnell Library Center, New York City, through 21 November.

**Women of the Book: Jewish Artists, Jewish Themes** at the Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield, MO through 1 December. See [Colophon Page Gallery](#).

**Brooklyn Pops Up! The History and Art of the Movable Book** at Brooklyn Public Library, 21 September - 31 December 2000.

**Unbound: Reshaping Artists' Books** at Abrons Art Center, Henry St. Settlement in New York City, 30 November - 19 January 2001.

**Poetics, Politics, and song: Contemporary Latin American/Latino(a) Artists' Books - Arts of the Book Collection**, Sterling Memorial Library, Yale University through 27 November.

**Book Arts in the Age of Durer**, featuring more than 100 books and prints from the collections of the Baltimore Museum of Art, the Walters Art Gallery and the Sheridan Libraries of Johns Hopkins University, 15 October - 21 January 2001 at the Baltimore Museum of Art.

**Books by Artists**. 1 December - 6 January 2001 at Nicole Klagsbrun Gallery, 526 W. 26<sup>th</sup> St., New York. Includes work of Dianna Frid, Miranda Maher, Dylan Stone, Scott Teplin, Mark Wagner, Marshall Weber and Christopher Wilde.

**Ken Botnick: Twenty-one Years of Books**. Special Collections, Olin Library, Washington University in St. Louis, from 28 November - 31 December 2000.

**Susan Hensel: Assembling Memory** at Organization of Independent Artists, Gallery 402, 19 Hudson St., New York City from 9 January - 2 February 2001. In Ella Sharp Museum in Jackson from 17 March through 15 May 2001.

**Sol LeWitt: artists' books, posters and ephemera**. Printed Matter, 77 Wooster St., New York City from 15 November - 22 December.

**Unbound: Reshaping Artist's Books**, curated by Nancy Azara and Janet Goldner, at the Henry Street Settlement Abrons Arts Center, 466 Grand St., New York City from 8 December - 2 February 2001. Includes work of the curators, Stephanie Brody Lederman, Ted Clausen, Leila Daw, Lesley Dill, Suellen Glashausser, Judy Hoffman, Sandra Jackman, Tatana Kellner, Karen Kunc, Angela Lorenz, Claire Jeanine Satin, Miriam Schaer, and Susan Share, among others.

**Finland + Paper = Art** at the Susquehanna Art Museum, Harrisburg, PA. through December 2000. Finnish culture has cultivated a unique and long-term relationship to the making and crafting of paper. Out of this tradition has emerged an important group of Finnish artists who are making sculptures out of paper. The exhibition *Finland + Paper = Art*, which opened at the American Craft Museum in New York City and has traveled across the U.S. and Canada, is making its last stop at the Susquehanna Art Museum.

Among the works in the exhibition are Kaarina Kaikkonen's *And the Wind Blow Over You*; (1994, 7 foot paper leaves) Harri Leppanen's *Spiral*; (1997, flax paper sculpture) and Miika Nyssonen's *Two Towers* (1996, cardboard sculpture) The exhibition was organized by the Finnish Council on the Arts and is accompanied by a catalog. For more information, contact The Susquehanna

Art Museum at tel717-233-8668 fax717-233-8155  
[info@sqart.org](mailto:info@sqart.org) and <http://www.sqart.org>

**Betwixt and Between: The Life and Work of Fluxus Artist Dick Higgins** at the Columbia College Center for the Book and Paper Arts, 1104 So. Wabash in Chicago from 10 November - 2 Dec. 2000. For the first time, this exhibition combines Higgins' extensive output in virtually all media (paintings, prints, video/film, performance, musical notation, aesthetics, bedsheets). This show will be going to at least 5 venues across the U.S., organized by Hannah Higgins and Simon Anderson. A chapbook (*The Last Great Bear Pamphlet*) will be published for the occasion.

## OPPORTUNITIES

**Artist Made Books.** Send 5 to 10 slides, artist statement, and resume to Buddy Holly Art Center, 1801 Avenue G, Lubbock, TX 79401 or call (806)767-2686. **Deadline: 31 December 2000.**

**2001 Nexus Press International Residency Program** is now accepting proposals. Nexus Press is a non-profit visual arts press that produces publishes and distributes artists' books. Selected artists will receive an honorarium, production budget, travel allotment, and technical assistance. **Deadline: 15 January 2001.** For further details, write Nexus Press, 535 Means St. NW, Atlanta, GA 3018 or call (404)577-3579.

**The Booklover's Repair Kit: First Aid for Home Libraries,** by Estelle Ellis with Wilton Wiggins and Douglas Lee (New York, Knopf, 2000, \$125.00) that includes a hardcover book illustrated by Tim Ely and all the tools and materials you need to do a wide variety of book repairs. It's all in a well-designed box with a slide out tray.

**The Booklover's Repair Manual:** 8 1/4 x 10 1/4, 160-page hard-cover, is illustrated with instructional drawings by Tim Ely and photos by Leonard Morris.

- o pH-neutral adhesive
- o document-cleaning pad
- o transparent mending tape
- o mounting and hinging tape
- o red cotton library tape
- o bone folder
- o art gum eraser
- o soft white eraser
- o Pink Pearl eraser
- o microspatula
- o dust cloth

- o silicone release paper
- o binder's board
- o archival mat board
- o Canson paper
- o cotton gloves
- o bamboo brush
- o china bristle brush
- o artist brushes, #2 and #4
- o knitting needle
- o plastic cutting board
- o bulldog clamps
- o archival permanent glue stick

The contents are (synopsis): Mending tears in Pages, Reattaching loose flyleaves, pages and illustrations, Flattening wrinkles or folds in pages & flyleaves, Reinforcing loose covers, repairing and cleaning dust jackets, repairing damaged book corners, Distressed headbands, Repairing the head & tail of the spine, Repairing frayed cover edges, Loose labels & bookplates, Making your own bookplates, Mending paperbacks, Cleaning & care of books. List of specialists for badly stained books, or leatherbound collectibles. Aimed at serious, affluent bibliophiles.

## FIRST BIENNIAL ATLANTA BOOK PRIZE

Nexus Press and the Friends of the Press announce the winner of the First Biennial Atlanta Book Prize: *Wild Wood* by Helen Douglas of Yarrow, Scotland, with honorable mention to *Domestic Arcana* by Marlene MacCallum (Newfoundland, Persnickety Press, 1999), *Twelve Flipbooks* by Stephanie Ognar (Champaign, IL, 1998-99); and *Truth* by Sarah Stengle (Brooklyn, NY, 1999).

## CATALOGS RECEIVED

**Patricia Tavenner's Artist Books,** with mail order from The Eternal Press, P.O. Box 11032, Oakland, CA 94611.

**Women's Studio Workshop: Artists' Books** showing new books by KaKe, Ann Lovett, Barbara Siegel, Miriam Beerman, Amy Schmierbach, Elli Galligano, Quimetta Perle, Debby Frederic, Michael Kasper, Diane Jacobs and Libby Clarke. Included are all available bookworks created by the WSW, P.O. Box 489, Rosendale, NY 12472.

**Art Metropole** now is the exclusive distributor of General Idea publications. In addition, they have many titles from the Something Else Press for sale. A complete bibliographic list of the titles is available upon request, or can be viewed at [www.artmetropole.org](http://www.artmetropole.org)

Susan Hensel has a list of her bookworks and literary sculptures available from the artist at 6077 Horizon Dr., E. Lansing, MI 48823. [booklady100@home.com](mailto:booklady100@home.com)

## ARTIST BOOK REVIEWS

*Most of the books reviewed in this section are available from Printed Matter, 77 Wooster St., New York, NY 10012 unless otherwise indicated.*

### REFERENCE

**Books and Pages: Polish Avant-garde and Artists' Books in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century** by Piotr Rypson (Warsaw, Center for Contemporary Art, 2000, n.p.) on the occasion of the exhibition *Text, Buch, Kunst* presented at the Frankfurt 2000 Book Fair. And what a joy this book is, filling in a new chapter of Polish artist books, with beautiful illustrations for each book, starting with 1918.

Starting with Poznan and Cracow Formist, Rypson reviews Futurism (Cracow and Warsaw) and through its decline to Constructivism, the magazines *Blok* and *Europa*, the a.r. group, typographical design in the 1930s, post World War II artist books, the Themersons and their Gabberbochus Press, the sixties with Parum and Makowski, the seventies and the conceptual book, the book as score or documentation of a performance, then the "mail art networkers" and their books leading to the 90s and the diversity, the sculptural nature of many artist books in Poland, as well as small presses, and so much more.

There are 127 illustrations, mostly in color, a selective bibliography and index. This book is an important contribution and should be in every contemporary art library.

### General

**Nature Centre** by Jenny Brownrigg (Grizedale, 2000, \$20) is the result of a residency at the natural environment in Cumbria, England and its environs including the Lake District. Using Grizedale's own archives and correspondence, a range of guidebooks dating from the 1800s to the present day, National Park documents, wilderness policies, and education work undertaken at six primary schools as part of the artist's residency, this volume becomes the result of this intensive research in nature centers in the U.K.

Unlike a research report, this is an artist book produced by an artist in a most interesting way, with a color code for each chapter, art as well as verbal exercises to ascertain the best way to organize a nature center, rap sessions with artists, input from children, reading the official reports, etc. It certainly would liven up government reports to have artists

work on them. This is an example of how artists involved in the environment can really make a difference.

**Kenny's Head** by Jacqueline Donachie (Glasgow, Visual Arts Projects, 2000, \$15) is the second part of *The Trees, The Book and the Disc*, a public project for Darmley, Glasgow, taken from the experience of 11 months in Darmley, from April 1998 - March 1999. The town of Darmley has been refurbished and instead of "flats", actual homes and sidewalks have been built, perhaps not better than the flats, but at least new. The Council debates the need for more parking, stricter rules for cars, etc. And yet the Kennishead Flats.

Using typography to illustrate the dilemmas and the improvements of the new Darmley, the author has taken photographs, designed the "texts" and spent four months trying to create a "public artwork" of which this book is but one part.

Darmley had been built as a new Glasgow suburb and had over 5,500 people, but the housing became damp, crime-ridden, and intolerable. Now the population is 2,500 with new housing built over the demolished old, or refurbished to allow public and private funding for the new housing and the new community.

**Ski** by Claude Closky (Ljubljana, Mala Galerija, 2000, \$15) was published along with the artist's exhibition in Ljubljana from 21 April - 21 May. In keeping with the artist's attempt at manipulating signs of the real, we get a full color photograph of the artist skiing to the right and to the left—but at a closer viewing, it is the same photograph reversed for the other direction. This skier in the middle of a jump, glowing against an azure backdrop, is said to have been countered in the gallery with a beautiful girl wearing a clinging t-shirt in Caribbean hues. This kind of poster-like photograph with its action and excitement, beauty and happiness is typical of many tourist posters, and obviously reflects the exhibition in that gallery.

**27 x 20** by Claude Closky (Le Havre, Editions Flux, 2000, \$20) is a series of 100 drawings (full-page) of commonplace items, such as washing machine, a cigarette, the Eiffel Tower, a video camera, an auto seat, folded hands, etc. He is almost playing with messages, without taking sides, except for a series, where he draws one thing, but says he is not drawing something else, so the word does not go necessarily with the thing. Alienation to the objects is interspersed with admiration for the quality of drawing. According to a recent essay, "Closky takes note of the failure of all imitation, the failure necessary to an off-centered writing, wrenched from the discourse."