

FROM THE EDITOR

Well, it has been a very intense 2005 with invitations to speak, travel and install exhibitions. After flying to Miami to install *Women of the Book* in the Miami JCC in southwest Miami, I flew up to New York City in order to be present at the opening of *The Gates*, a project of Christo and Jeanne-Claude that I had invested time in since 1979, when Ken Friedman invited me to drive with Christo and Jeanne-Claude to the major hearing with the City of New York to introduce and get approval for such a project. Kenneth Clark, the sociologist who recently died, was present to show how his survey of the neighborhoods all around Central Park were very positive about approving such a project, which was intended at the time for October and not a cold February day. And what was not indicated in any of the write-ups about *The Gates*, Christo had mapped the whole Central Park inch by inch, even more so than the creator of the park, Frederick Law Olmsted, to prove his point and give this as a gift to the city. Alas, it was not to be, since the Parks Commissioner saw problems with the project and so did every subsequent Parks commissioner until 2005. Mayor Bloomberg is a friend of the Christos, and thus things became easier and the whole world indulged in orange in February against silver trees unadorned with leaves. New York was smiling in February and it was a delicious experience. Then I flew back home to catch up, then up to Berkeley for a conference and exhibition of photography by the blind, then back to pack and literally change planes to go back to Miami and pack up the show for Rutgers/Camden.

Upon returning home, I packed for New Jersey and for Germany, where I had been invited to attend the Edible Book Tea on 1 April with a senior citizens group that had been priming themselves to create a delicious tea with cakes baked with marzipan frosting and so much more, and that all expenses would be paid for me., thanks to my friends, Peter and Angela Netmail. As a result, the Rutgers/Camden show was a joy to install thanks to the curator of the Stedman Gallery, Nancy Maguire and her team. Watching spring try so hard to assert herself in the East, I realized how long it had been for this New Englander to realize the change of seasons after

more than 50 years in California. But Germany had already begun to warm to the change of seasons and it was wonderful to be comfortable and joyful with the coming of spring. So I have been on many airplanes and in many climes, but now it is summer in Los Angeles after a very wet winter.

Speaking of change, there certainly has been an increase in activity in the artist book world in the past six months. First of all, a very successful Bookfest in New York City, where many new bookworks were launched including *Lamentations* by the Mayan women in Chiapas. Now comes ABC or Artist Book Conference in Los Angeles, sponsored by ARLIS's Southern California chapter with events occurring at MOCA, Otis, the Clark Library (of UCLA fame) and the Getty Center, where an exhibition of 25 bookworks will open. Then there is the ABC of the East Coast to occur from 15 - 18 June at Wellesley College, a conference intended for book artists, curators, collectors, educators, book sellers, and students to exchange viewpoints, share information and explore ideas about artist books:

<http://www.wellesley.edu/Library/ABC>. Not to be outdone is the first Symposium of the Minnesota Center for Book Arts with a festival of lectures, workshops and activities led by Minnesota and national book artists. The dates are 25-30 July and for more information, e-mail: spittelkow@mnbookarts.org

Have a great and productive summer and keep on booking!

-jah

Cover: Janet Nolan: *Twister* #10, 2002
Recycled umbrella handles and umbrella fabric,
9 x 12 x 12"

© Umbrella Associates, 2005
Vol. 28, no. 1 (May 2005)

Umbrella is published irregularly by Umbrella Associates, and the editor is Judith A. Hoffberg, P.O. Box 3640, Santa Monica, CA 90408. Phone: (310)399-1146, fax: (310)399-5070. E-mail: umbrella@ix.netcom.com. Website is: <http://colophon.com/journal> Subscriptions are available for the calendar year only, payable in American currency or Paypal.