

ARTISTS' BOOKS: news and reviews

NEWS

Line, Box 272, New York, NY 10013 applied for \$20,000 from public agencies in 1978-79, but received only \$5,000 which will pay for five \$900 grants. Thus far, the following artists have been granted \$900 each: Ronald Cohen, Chicago; Diego Cortez, New York; Glena Park, Dallas; Cindy Sherman, New York. The fifth grant will be awarded in the fall to a West Coast artist.

Artists are requested to re-submit, update or send new proposals. A new group of people will review proposals in spring 1980. Now you may submit proposals for research on large or long-term projects which will be published by you or a commercial publisher at some later date.

■ A collection of artists' books has been established at the Virginia Commonwealth University's James Branch Cabell Library. Funding for the initial purchase of approximately 450 items came from the Cabell Associates of Richmond Fund. The collection is housed in the Special Collections Department of the library, which is open weekdays from 8 to 5 or by appointment and will be formally opened for use in the late fall.

The collection's goal is to serve as an area resource for practicing book artists, teaching faculty, students and researchers. The present collection consists of currently available material and several works of historic value on indefinite loan.

Book artists who wish to contribute works or to send information concerning their publications should contact Janet Dalberto, Collection Development, Cabell Library, 901 Park Avenue, Richmond, VA 23284.

■ From 4 - 14 August, the Elaine Benson Gallery will exhibit "Handmade Books from the Center for Book Arts." Rose Slivka, former editor of *Craft Horizons*, is guest curator for this show, which explores the many forms and uses of books by artists. Approximately 30 artists, writers, and bookmakers have been invited to exhibit including Elaine and Willem de Kooning, Hedda Sterne, writers John Cage, Rose Slivka, and Stanley Moss, and bookmakers Barton Benes, Richard Minsky, and Hedi Kyle. The gallery is in New York City.

■ **Aart**, a store located at 6319 College Avenue, Oakland, CA 94618 has opened recently, featuring artists' books, thrift art, wim art, and art in general. Owners include Susan Wick of Wick's Books, Mary Winder Baker and three other partners. Store hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 11 - 6. Artists who wish to submit work for consideration can contact them.

REVIEWS

A Futurist Octet is a 30-minute audio-cassette of eight playlets adapted from *sintesi* of the Italian Futurists. Translations are by Victoria Nes Kirby, directed by E.T. Simon and performed by the Audio Players: Anna Banana, Murray Epstein, Bill Gaglione and E.T. Simon. Available for \$10 in check or money order (\$12 outside the USA) from Audio Players, 1651 Market St. No. 214, San Francisco, CA 94103.

Impressions of Three Cities: Berlin, New York, San Diego by Raul M. Guerrero is a haunting, over-sized, romantic synthesis of thoughts and visual impressions about the three cities: three statements, three pictures, yet the book continues even after you close the covers. Carefully rendered, this book sells for \$10.00 from Artworks, 66 Windward Ave., Venice, CA 90291.

World Imitation has issued a 45 rpm record, called *Beak/Pet Wedding* that has proved to be a bestseller. \$2.00 from World Imitation, P.O. Box 784, Northridge, CA 91328. Performers are Steve Thomsen, Michael Uhlenkott, Laurie O'Connel and Jeff Rankin. Also new is *The Computer Buddy* which includes a punched computer card in an inside pocket, with eight visual stories. Collage with a vengeance!

Walkie Talkie—As real as in the museum! continues the visual saga of World Imitation with imagery from another era, but iconography that applies today. \$1.50.

Hollow Pervasion by Michael Chesler is a color Xerox book exploring ecology, environment and man-made imposition on the landscape. \$7.50 from Artworks.

Picture/Readings by Barbara Kruger includes a narrative for each photograph of a building. The photos on the right hand side elicit a story about the person or persons occupying the room, apartment or house depicted in the photo. Mysterious, elusive, yet to the point. \$5.00 from Artworks.

Some Drawings by Helgi Porgils Fridjonsson comes from Iceland, but printed in Maastricht, Netherlands, with line drawings and cartoon-like bubbles telling little vignettes. Funny and yet the English, somewhat broken, adds a poignancy to the vignettes. Available from the author at Raudalaek 9, 105 Reykjavik, Iceland.

Etruscan Lunches by Paula Hocks is a sequel in a way to *Heads and Bodies*, previously reviewed in *Umbrella*. This is a collaged journey through thoughts and commentary of famous and not so famous people. An extremely beautiful Xerox book, *Etruscan Lunches* includes decals, collage, photos and print—simple, meditative, a lunch which one can dip into at any time of the day and night with much food for thought. \$50.00 softbound and \$200.00 hardbound. From Artworks or from Running Women Press, Santa Fe, NM.

Perfect Bind, an outgrowth of a conversation with two librarians, is a "perfectly bound book" on all sides, which makes it less vulnerable to the usual wear and tear of a perfect-bound book, according to the author, Richard Olson. *Perfect Bind* is a sequel to *Double Bind*, previously reviewed in *Umbrella*. \$3.00.

No Strings Attached is an embossed, double-punched book with strings attached—done with tongue in cheek. Hot off the rubber stamp press of Richard Olson, this 14-page book costs \$2.00. Available from Richard Olson, Route 1, Box 305, Beloit, WI 53511.

Broken Promises by Steve Hitchcock is the latest contribution from the former editor of *Cabaret Voltaire* magazine. *Broken Promises* is dedicated to Karl Marx and is a plastic-packaged series of pages showing the hammer and sickle broken into many parts page after page. \$2.50 from Artworks or from the author, 224 C Ave., Coronado, CA 92118.

Rubber Stamp Books by Marie Combs include *Hairpin Lace*, *Thousand and Five Hundred Sheep*, and *f.o.b. detroit*, available from Artworks. The artist uses old rubber stamps and carefully designs her pages to create sequence and narrative.

The Man Who'd Bound the World, with text and art by Jonathan Freedman, is a visual joy from Turtle Island Press, in Philadelphia. We have the story of Stanley Scuka, 34, midnight dreamer, an ice cream eater, a closet revolutionary and in his vision, Harlem becomes the drumskin for a beat which echoes around the world. The narrative unfolds with Stanley finding where the beat began, learning when to lift his hand and strike. Cut-out illustrations are vivid in blazing color and unique, adding a rhythm and richness to this unusual, whimsical tale. Recommended for readers of all ages, \$9.95 from Turtle Island Press, 218 No. 13th St., Philadelphia, PA 19107.

New York, N.Y. by Pierre Boogaerts is a new way of looking at New York City through the camera's eye. Park Avenue, Times Square, Broadway, Fifth Avenue are explored from a new angle—from nature with no people—a real surprise. 200 pages of a different kind of book on New York. \$15.00 from Artworks or from Parachute in Montreal.

Problems by Barry Berg is comprised of 14 works depicting the human figure as an event. In 1978 they were produced by offset printing and Xeroxing into a book form edition for the Artworks & Bookworks exhibition. Now the author, Barry Berg, has added color copies with magic markers. The book derives from ideas concerning the unresolved friction between word and image with a search for meaning between the abstract and emotional impulses. \$8.00 from Artworks.

Memories of the Future by masterful surrealist, Gordon Wagner, is now available to all. *Memories of the Future* contains Wagner's poetic drawing and vivid poetry, with 19 lithographed plates reproduced and 12 pages of poetry that penetrate the psyche of everyman. Available for \$5.00 in paperback from Angels Gate Press, P.O. Box 1881, San Pedro, CA 90733.

Red Mittens by Toronto artist, John Greyson, is a beautifully handcrafted book for the children in all of us. You can wear the book as two mittens, or read it, or wear one mitten and read the other—a perfect example of book as object. Delightful, charming and a gift for children of all ages. \$7.50 and a bargain for the International Year of the Child. Available from Artworks.

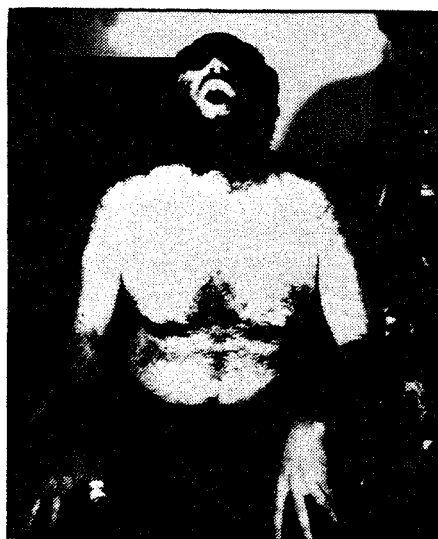
The Month of October (1977) by Eat Art (Mike Dyar) is a spectacular tour de force—a book produced from Color Xerox—superimposed on a map from Eastern England, we have artifacts from Dubuque, Iowa, Billings, Montana, Wallace, Idaho to San Francisco—a journey through time, through art, through history, executed in time, space and three dimensions—pieces of a puzzle. An experience more than a book at \$30.00 from Artworks.

Blinky by Jeffrey Vallance tells the story of how a chicken sacrificed for our consumption was symbolically buried in a Pet Cemetery with tombstone, casket, etc. Chicken Little was right—and Vallance proves it. Delightful, funny and bittersweet. \$5.00 from bookshops all over.

Okupant X, written and illustrated by Gary Panter, is a stylized performance-story done in a neo-Japanese style, full of science fiction, fantasy, and mystery. A bargain at \$2.00, printed by Diana's Bimonthly Press in Rhode Island. Available from Artworks. A badge is also available for \$1.00.

COMING NEXT ISSUE: Reviews of artists' books from around the world, including the new Abrams series of artists' books.

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