

NEWS & NOTES

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For those of you who want to look as if you collect books, there is trompe l'oeil wallpaper by Richard Neas that looks like a library of leather-bound books, according to the New York Times.

According to the artist, "It solves a lot of wonderful problems in an apartment. If you have no space for a library, you can put the paper on the wall and it makes you look intellectual. It also gives a lot of warmth to an impersonal office space."

The design, "Bibliothèque," was inspired by a similar panel that Mr. Neas had painted at the end of a hallway in his apartment to create the illusion of a bookcase. It's available in a roll that is 27 inches wide by 5 yards long. One roll is \$158 at Brunschwig & Fils showrooms around the U.S. Just imagine how many books you could buy for \$158 to fill in those spaces on the shelves!

LIBRARIES, OLD AND NEW

Believe it or not, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and an international committee of world leaders have launched a \$100-million fund-raising drive to revive the ancient library of Alexandria and restore, if possible, Alexandria's place as a cultural beacon of the Mediterranean. There is support from UNESCO and the UN Development Program, which has helped break ground on a site along Alexandria's famous corniche, unveiling a script-encrusted, glass-topped cylindrical design that resembles a sun rising out of the sand, designed by LA architect Craig Dykers, and his friend Christoph Kapeller, with another group in Oslo, Norway, which agreed on the concept of a circular building with a sloping glass roof, part of which pierced down below ground level. Scripts in most languages of the world are engraved in the exterior, with the vast interior a series of book-filled terraces bathed by light from above.

It will concentrate on Hellenistic antiquity and the Middle East, the meeting of Egyptian and Greek cultures, the birth of Coptic Christianity, the history of ancient science and the influence of Islam. It should open in 1995 with 200,000 volumes, eventually housing up to 4 million books and worldwide computer linkups.

In late December, visitors to the Museum of Czech Literature in Prague were flocking to two small side rooms to linger over a display of several dozen examples of the thousands of novels, essays and plays that were banned by the Communists and will now be available on a widespread basis.

Until the "velvet revolution", works of banned authors were removed from the shelves and were placed in a special room to which only Communist party members had a key. A small sampling of previously banned works were in a dozen glass-topped cases in the exhibition that opened just before Christmas under the title "Prohibited Library."

In Rumania, the Central University Library in Bucharest, which served as headquarters for deposed President Nicolae Ceaucescu's security forces, was greatly destroyed.

Argentina's unfinished national library threatens to become a relic for further ar-

cheologists to ponder over. The desire to finish it by President Menem is noble, but the state treasury is empty.

NEW FORMS OF BOOK

Sony has created the Data Discman, for people who would rather jog through the park reading encyclopedia entries rather than listing to Madonna. Called the first electronic book by Sony, the Data Discman fits in the palm of the hand and can search for data from a three-inch CD-ROM, a relative of the compact disk that can store up to 100,000 pages of data.

The Discman has its own screen, a tiny keyboard to enter key words and other data. The screen, made of liquid-crystal, can show 10 lines of 15 Chinese characters across. No English text prototype has been created as yet.

OLD FORMS OF BOOK

Visionation, Inc., a company based in Los Angeles, is producing photo flip booklets, which are being used to help athletes improve their play through animation. Published are six booklets, known as Flipp Tipps, which include actual play by well-known athletes such as Mickey Mantle for baseball, or Pele, the Brazilian soccer player, for his bicycle-kick maneuver for soccer. Obviously, you artist book lovers know, if you turn the pages fast enough, they will run together as if you were looking at a film clip. If you turn the pages slowly, the photos will enable you to study the progression of a motion. If you are interested in buying these booklets at \$6.95 each, order by telephoning (800)388-8832.

NEW PERIODICALS

20/1 is a new periodical from the School of Art & Design, The University of Illinois at Chicago. Volume 1, Number 1 was issued in 1989 and is devoted to Twentieth-Century Art & Culture. The first issue, well printed with bold Helvetica titles, cover everything from United's O'Hare Tunnel's combination of music, architecture and sculpture to a discussion of Jean Heap and The Little Review. Besides some book reviews, there are articles on traditional Chinese painting since the Cultural Revolution, Art and the Bom from Hiroshima to Three Mile Island, and the Index of American Design.

Handsomely designed, 20/1, a semiannual publication, hopes to combine a new angle utilizing history, theory and criticism, emphasizing a contemporary edge speaking to today's concerns about audience, politics, ideology and communication. Available for \$20.00 per year for individuals, \$15.00 for students and retired, \$36.00 for institutions from School of Art & Design, College of Architecture & Urban Planning, The University of Illinois at Chicago, Box 4348, Chicago, IL 60680 USA.

Photography in New York: A Guide is a bimonthly guide to galleries & museums, private dealers, booksellers, and classes & workshops of photography in the New York area. There is an artist index and a gallery and museum index for reference. Edited and published by Bill Mindlin, a subscription to Photography in New York is \$15 for

one year US, \$20 Canada. Write to Photography in New York, P.O. Box 20351, Park West Station, New York, NY 10025.

Art Today is an amazing feat created by Horace Solomon, which comes out monthly, covering major exhibitions in New York City on video, with studio visits, interviews, and critical commentary by major East Coast writers. An indepth look at what's going on in one of the capitols on video in any format desired. This can be used as a teaching tool, as well as a visual magazine for collectors, dilettantes, connoisseurs, and just plain art lovers. 10 issues a year, featuring visits to about 15 gallery and museum exhibitions each tape, the service costs \$495 per year. Write to Art Video News Service, Inc., 444 East 57th St., New York, NY 10022. Tel.: (212)593-9044 or call toll-free (800)842-2671.

Lucky 3 is devoted to "Fear and Monsters, featuring the work of Nancy Barton, Leslie Belt, Exene Cervenka, Michelle T. Clinton, Mary Fleener, Judith Williamson and Millie Wilson. This unusual periodical, printed on one large page which is printed on both sides and stitched into boards which reflect the theme, is available for \$5.00 from your local artist's bookshop or from Printed Matter.

Environnemental, published by ISELP (Institute Supérieur pour l'Etude du Langage Plastique) is a specialized review about monumental art by the integration of sculpture, paintings, etc. on the site. The first issue was published in October 1989, number 2 was issued at the end of January, and number 3 appeared in April. Frequency is four times a year, geared toward bringing dialogue among artists, town planners, architects and those responsible for public construction. For more information, write to Environnemental, Boulevard de Waterloo 31, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium.

Kunst & Museum journal is a slick publication for modern art of 36 museums and cultural institutions and the Netherlands Office for Fine Arts out of Amsterdam. If you want to know what's going on in Holland, write to P.O. Box 77, 5126 ZH Gilze, The Netherlands. 6 issues per year.

RS is the new periodical to be published by the Reina Sofia center in Madrid. 3 issues a year are proposed, and the editor is Joan Alvarez. Available from Ministerio de Cultura, Plaza del Rey 1, 28071 Madrid, Spain.

FLUXUS NEWS

Alison Knowles had an exhibition of new paintings entitled Seven Indian Moons at Emily Harvey Gallery from 17 January - 17 February. A small bok accompanied the show. Write to Emily Harvey Gallery, 537 Broadway, New York Ccity 10012.

Henry Flynt's Challenge to Conceptual Artists appeared as a full-page ad in Artforum and Arts Magazine in March. It begins with

Flynt's original definition of "concept art" he defined in 1961. He challenges those of his colleagues who practice conceptual art to deal with the two pieces which Flynt makes in the ad with a box of seven small sticks.

Charlotte Moorman: *Child of the Cello* was held at Emily Harvey Gallery from 24 February - 17 March in New York.

Takako Saito had an exhibition at Emily Harvey Gallery in April 1990.

Bob Watts: *Flux Med* is a catalog of collaged works by the late American Fluxus artist, shown at the studio of Joan Guaita, Plaza Santa Barbara 6.1 E28004, Madrid, Spain. Catalog is available.

Vytautas Landsbergis, leader of Lithuania who is fighting for its sovereignty, was a friend of George Maciunas, one of the founders of Fluxus, and was indeed a Fluxus musician in the "good old days" of the 1960s. He is an accomplished pianist and musical theoretician.

Alain Gibertie writes an appreciation of **Robert Filliou** who died in 1987. This was translated by Phil Corner, and published in **FRONT**, the Western Front magazine out of Vancouver, BC for January 1990.

LOST AND FOUND

Rembrandt's "Night Watch" went back on display in Amsterdam, less than one month after being sprayed with sulfuric acid by a man believed to be mentally disturbed. No extra security has been introduced to protect the painting, despite the fact the April 6 attack was the third against the Rembrandt this century. A protective veneer layer prevented any damage to the work.

19 paintings by founders of the Futurist movement were withdrawn from Milan's Brera art museum and put in a bank vault because of security fears, according to the owners. The family of the late Riccardo Jucker, who donated the paintings by Umberto Boccioni, Giacomo Balla and Carlo Carra, said they would rather pay bank custody charges than "risk a nasty accident." Two paintings by other artists have been stolen from the Brera in the past 3 years.

Thieves raided an Italian village designed to house a collection of the Guggenheim Foundation, stealing four paintings and a piece of furniture valued at \$115,000. The stolen paintings were not part of the 110-piece collection of minimal and conceptual art, mostly by U.S. artists, which will be donated to the American foundation by Giuseppe Panza di Biumo.

The J. Paul Getty Museum has purchased Van Gogh's *Iris* for an undisclosed amount from Australian industrialist Alan Bond and immediately put the painting on display at its location in Malibu, California.

A dozen priceless works of art stolen from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in March were not insured against theft. Still lost are paintings and drawings by

Rembrandt, Vermeer, Degas and others, as well as a Chinese beaker that dates from 1500 BC.

France will receive a huge collection of Picasso's works in lieu of death duties on the estate of the artist's widow, Jacqueline. Included are 49 paintings, 38 drawings, 24 drawing books, 2 sculptures, 19 ceramics, 7 lithographs and 240 prints. Some of the works will be allocated to museums in several French towns and the rest will go to the Picasso Museum in Paris.

Ida Chagall has presented the Israel Museum with 103 works by her father, Marc Chagall. They will go on exhibit at the Israel Museum in September. Chagall, daughter of the artist who died in 1985 at 97, made the pledge at her father's 1989 exhibition at the museum.

A man with a knife slashed a 16th-century Italian artist Federico Barocci at the National Gallery in London. He stood trial on charges of causing criminal damage, having cut the painting in 9 places. It will take more than a year to repair the painting, which has been on display since 1831.

Likewise, a Marcel Duchamp painting at MOMA in New York was slashed with a "sharp instrument". "Network of Stoppages" will be restored fully.

Found again: the Sistine Chapel with bold and bright colors has been restored to its (original?) condition. Besides grime and soot being removed, some critics feel they have removed Michelangelo from the ceiling. And those veils and loincloths on some nude figures are still there, ordered by Pope Pius IV who requested Daniele da Volterra to cover up parts considered more offensive. They are still there, because the rationale is that by now the additions are considered essential elements of the work, and all that is left underneath are blank spaces. Perhaps we will never know!

The 9th century illuminated and illustrated manuscript of the Four Gospels in a jewel-encrusted gold-and-silver binding, which disappeared from a mine shaft in American-occupied Germany shortly after the Nazi collapse in 1945, was returned to West Germany. A finder's fee of \$3 million was paid to a lawyer for an American client who had the manuscript. The Four Gospels, written with gold in 840, was signed by Samuël, a 9th-century monk, probably made for the imperial court. Probably one of the emperors, who founded Quedlinburg, made a gift of it to the Quedlinburg cloister in 936.

Dali divided: The bulk of the 190 paintings the Dali bequeathed to the Spanish state will remain his native Catalonia, with the remaining 56 going to Madrid's modern art museum, the Reina Sofia. After great protests concerning Dali's willing his entire creative output to the Spanish state, an agreement was made by the Spanish Cultural Ministry and the Catalan regional government that makes a compromise basically satisfying to all parties.

Restored: After a \$2 million renovation, a mansion designed by Antonio Gaudi was reborn last summer as one of the most luxurious restaurants on the Spanish Atlantic seaboard. Called El Capricho, a historic landmark listed with the Patrimonio Nacional, was commissioned in the early 1800s by Maximo Diaz de Quijano, a Spanish millionaire who made his fortune in Latin America. Gaudi, who died in 1926, never saw the building, which was finished in 1885. Unlike the original plans, the restoration includes basement kitchens, a lavish onyx-lined ground floor and an unashamedly exclusive bar-lounge on the top floor. Gaudi would never have approved, but making it a restaurant guaranteed its restoration. That's the Spanish for you!

Saved: The Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth, responding to an outpouring of criticism of the additions it planned to its celebrated building by the architect Louis I. Kahn, announced recently that it had postponed the new structures indefinitely.

Found: More than 1,000 fake works attributed to the late Salvador Dali, only a small part of worldwide traffic in forged works attributed to the artist, were seized by police in Spain. Etchings, lithographs, tapestries and ceramics purported to have been produced by the surrealist Spanish master were seized at the premises of a Barcelona art dealer together with crates filled with fake certificates of authenticity. Experts estimate the annual value of fake Dali works sold around the world, mainly in the U.S. and Japan, at \$600 million.

NEW MUSEUMS

Buenos Aires has inaugurated its first Museum of Modern Art.

The new National Museum of Contemporary Art opened in Oslo, Norway in January. It covers work from 1945 to the present.

Ireland has opened its own Museum of Modern Art in March to coincide with Dublin's year as Cultural Capital of Europe. The museum is housed in the Royal Hospital, a fine 17th-century building, which has been restored. The Director of the new museum is Declan McGonagle, founder of the Orchard Gallery in Londonderry.

There is a new International Electrographic Art Museum (M.I.D.E.) which opened on 7 May 1990 at the Vicerrectorado de Extension Universitaria (University of Castilla-La Mancha) in Cuenca, Spain. The resources include a permanent collection of technological works created by artists from difference countries, a center for documentation and archives, including a video library, and a research venue for exhibitions and cultural activities. The hours are Wednesdays, 10 am - 2 pm.

Centre Belge de la Bande Dessinée, the first European museum to be devoted entirely to comic-strip art, opened in early October in a classic Art Nouveau building by Victor Horta.

The Hamburger Bahnhof in West Berlin will become a vast exhibition hall for contemporary art slated to open in 1993, with Wulf Herzogenrath as its new director.

The Witte de With Centre for Contemporary Art, Rotterdam's newest art center, has opened with a show of 8 environments plus objects by Guillaume Bijl, made during 1981 - 90. There are two floors within a former school building on Witte de Withstraat, renovated by architect Herman Postma.

MURALS

The Pathfinder Mural, a 70-foot-high Greenwich Village wall painting including portraits of Marx, Lenin, Castro, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and others, was splattered with paint before Christmas, with white oil-based paint labeled with swastikas and the SS insignia. The mural, sponsored by Pathfinder Press, involved 80 artists from more than 20 countries.

A mural, entitled "Tropical America" is being restored on famed Olvera Street in downtown Los Angeles, by a patchwork of financing from Hispanic and arts groups, merchants and state government, for more than \$200,000. The 80-foot mural, to be completed as early as next year, will be one of the few works on public view in the U.S. by David Alfaro Siqueiros.

PHOTOGRAPHY NEWS

All kinds of guides to collections are being published:

Guide to Photographic Collections at the Smithsonian Institution, Vol. 1: National Museum of American History by Diane Vogt O'Connor is the first in a five-volume set, describing a million photographs at the NMAH for curators, researchers, historians, artists, filmmakers, and collectors. The photographs are described and indexed by their subject matter; by their photographers, donors and collection creators; and by their photographic processes and formats--meaning easy access. \$29.95 from Smithsonian Institution Press, Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17294-0900.

Index to American Photographic Collections, 2d ed. of the International Museum of Photography at George Eastman House, edited by Andrew Eskind and Greg Drake, will be available from G.K. Hall & Co., 70 Lincoln St., Boston, MA 02111-9985.

Terry Braunstein was interviewed by Colleen Creamer in Darkroom Photography for March 1990, as "The Cutting Edge of Collage."

Upside Down, Inside Out and Back Wards: Fairy Tunes for Children by Duane Michals was a small booklet produced by Sidney Janis Gallery, New York City, for the exhibition of Duane Michals 7 - 30 September 1989. Now out of print, it involves overprinting and collage, and is a charming addition to the growing literature of Michals.

European Photography 41 is dedicated to Young European Photographers 1989, which is the fifth year for awards to these photographers in Europe.

BAILING OUT THE DINNER PARTY

To pay for storage of "The Dinner Party" by Judy Chicago, which she created in 1979, a benefit was held in Los Angeles to raise money to finance the storage of the piece until a permanent home can be found. And just think of the homeless, who have no dinner party any day of the week!

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

U.S. Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, from California's Orange County, and a Christian radio station in North Hollywood, have launched a conservative art contest to show that certain types of art are being discriminated against. "The weird, the pornographic, the sacrilegious are being favored over the classical, traditional and inspirational," said he. A Lomita, California Republican, who has protested the government funding of artworks that he considers obscene, Rohrabacher was asked to define conservative art.

"If a monkey could have possibly done it, it probably isn't art." But if a monkey named Bonzo co-starred in it... (LA Times)

A Free Expression Festival will be held 22 June - 4 July in Los Angeles, focusing on work in all media that could be construed as testing the limits of acceptable art content under various proposals made by those who want to impose content standards on federally funded art.

Censorship: Little Red Ridinghood has been banned in Empire, California as well as in Culver City, because the classic Grimm's fairy tale recounts that the little girl took a bottle of wine to her grandmother, and they are all afraid it will encourage alcoholism.

In Owensboro, Kentucky, the director of elementary-school education, ordered the elementary-school librarian to stop buying books by Judy Blume because the author is accused of using obscenities.

Playboy and Penthouse are under dispute as well, because the American Family Association (yes, the Keating and Helms group from Cincinnati that hates Mapplethorpe) doesn't want Waldenbooks and K Mart to sell them.

And what would the censors say about Video Guide from Vancouver presenting in its November 1989 issue, devoted to AIDS/VIDEO and the MEDIA, a small envelope encrusted with "Try Safer Sex and you'll be back for More" in which there is a condom! \$10 for 5 issues from Video Guide, 1102 Home St., Vancouver, BC V6B 2X6!

AUDIO ART

The Second Acustica International was held in New York City 27 April - 29 April, involving work of Sorrel Hays, Philip Corner, Malcolm Goldstein, Charlie Morrow, Jackson Mac Low, Gerhard Rühm, Dick Higgins, Jerome Rothenberg, Pierre Henry, Mauricio Kagel, Franz Mon, Alvin Curran, Ronald Steckel, Pauline Oliveros, Linda Messmann, John Cage, Alison Knowles, Charles Amirkhanian, and Bill Fontana. This was all recorded for Cologne radio station WDR at the auditorium of the Whitney Museum of American Art at Equitable Center.

Pianofortissimo, curated by Gino di Maggio, was a big sound show of many Fluxus artists and like minds which opened on 11 January 1990 in Milano sponsored by Fondazione Mudima.

Sound Symposium to be held at St. John's Newfoundland, Canada 5 - 14 July 1990 with dialogues, symposia, installation works and gallery exhibitions, and artists from around the world. For more information, contact Sopund Symposium Committee, 81 Circular Road, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada A1C 2Z5.

Sonic Disturbance, a festival of sound will be held at the Cleveland Public Theater, 7-10 June & 12 - 23 September in Ohio.

ON LINE

Artlink information services, a database system based in Atlanta, Georgia, is open to "anyone with a computer and modem, and a regular phone line". Open 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week."





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