ART PEOPLE

George Nakashima, master woodworker and designer who captured the noble character of trees and chairs, tables and cabinetry, died in June at the age of 85. He had just been celebrated by the American Craft Museum in Manhattan as a "living national treasure"...The Japanese Praemium Imperiale awards for lifetime achievement in the arts will be awarded to Arnaldo Pomodoro of Italy for sculpture, James Stirling of England for architecture, and Antoni Tapies of Spain for painting. Each winner is to receive \$100,000 and a mdeal at a ceremony in October in Tokyo... Paul Reps, a spiritualist and writers whose book, "Zen Flesh, Zen Bones" became a textbook for the 1960s counterculture generation, died in July in Los Angeles at the age of 94. A poet and artist, Reps' "picture poems", a combination of poetry and Japanese-style black Sumi paintings, were included in many of his books and exhibited in galleries...Dione Neutra, wife of famed architect Richard Neutra, died in September at the age of 89...Robert Holmes a Court, Australian millionaire and art collector, died in September at the age of 53...Max Gordon, internationally known for his mastery of exhibition spaces, died recently in Longon at 59. He was responsible for the gallery for the Saatchi collection of contemporary art, as well as the Reina Sofia art center in Madrid, galleries such as Paula Cooper, Brooke Alexander, Maeght-Lelong and Lorence-Monk in New York, among others...Andre Grabar, an internationally known expert on Byzantine art, died in Paris at the age of 94...Seymour Knox, a banker, internationally known art patron and first chairman of the New York State Council on the Arts, died in late September at the age of 92. He gave more than 700 works of art to the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo...Michael Leiris, a writer who helped lead the Surrealist movement in the 1920s and later authored innovative studies of ethnic groups, died in Saint Hilaire, southwest of Paris, at the age of 89... Hans Namuth, a photographer and filmmaker best known for his portraits of American artists, died in October at the age of 75 in East Hampton, Long Island, having suffered injuries in a car accident. His portraits of Willem & Elaine de Kooning, Helen Frankenthaler, Franz Kline, Robert Motherwell, Mark Rothko and Jackson Pollock, Jasper Johns, Larry Rivers, Robert Rauschenbeg and other artists are famous for the broad range of emotions he captured...Eliot Porter, a major landscape photographer whose color landscapes were reproduced on numerous Sierra Club posters and exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, died at the age of 88 in Santa Fe, New Mexico... Frederick Cummings, an art historian, dealer and a former director of the Detroit Institute of Arts, died in Maine at the age of 57... Ian Woodner, a New York builder and developer who was an important collector of Old Master drawings and other works of art, died at 87 in Manhattan...David Lloyd Kreeger, retired insurance executive and an art collector and philanthropist, died recently at his home in Washington, DC at the age of 81...Joan Brown, artist and professor of art at UC Berkeley, was killed in a freak accident in Proddatura, India, at the age of 52. While installing her work in a reflecting pool at the new Heritage Museum, still under construction, a concrete turret from a balcony collapsed and fell on her... Tadeusz Kantor, internationally known avantgarde theater director, performance artist, author and painter, died at the age of 75 in Krakow, Poland in December...Craig Owens, renowned New York art critic and editor who helped formulate the art world's definition of post-modernism and who wrote on such artists as Robert Wilson, Barbara Kruger, Laurie Anderson, John Baldessari, et al, died of AIDS at the age of 39 in Chicago...John Eric Broaddus died on 11 September 1990. Famed book artist as well as avantgarde artist, Broaddus was memorialized at Franklin Furnace on 13 November...

Robert Sobieszek has recently assumed the position as curator of photography at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, coming from the George Eastman House...John Perrault is the new Senior Curator at the American Craft Museum, New York City...Peter Oldenburg, a book and graphic designer long associated with the Metropolitan Museum of Art for with hundreds of books and catalogs, died at the age of 74...Joseph Blumenthal, a publisher and typographer who printed special editions of Robert Frost's poems for more than 30 years, plust his books about printing in America, died at the age of 92...Italian porn star and parliamentarian Ilona Staller and U.S. artist Jeff Koons have fallen in love via intercontinental faxes. According to Staller's spokeswoman, "They are madly in love." The two have met earlier, having made a film together, but the relationship developed "via fax." She had campaigned for an end to obscenity laws, if you remember...Joyce Cutler-Shaw had an exhibition called Op Wieken (The Odyssey of the Messenger) at the Teylers Museum, Haarlem, The Netherlands, 22 September - 25 November 1990.

