

# ARTISTS' BOOKS: news and reviews

## NEWS

c.d.o., the Mail Art Space in Parma, Italy, is exhibiting as its 19th international exhibition, *100 Artists & 100 Books*, the truly first big international exhibition of handmade mail art books, which were solicited by the archive. A small exhibition catalog accompanies the show, available from c.d.o., Via dei Farnese 9, Parma, Italy.

■ Agnes Denes' recent book, *Map Projections*, which was recently reviewed in these pages, received a long review and analysis on the "Home Forum" page of the *Christian Science Monitor* for 17 April 1980.

■ *A Book, Working: an anthology of artists' books* has extended its deadline for submissions to 30 May 1980, sent to A Space, 299 Queen Street West, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5V 1Z9.

■ The California College of Arts and Crafts Extension is presenting two sets of workshops in the art of the book: four introductory workshops for beginning and intermediate students in bookbinding, papermaking, letterpress, and offset printing and four master workshops for advanced students and professionals in papermaking, letterpress, experimental offset printing, and visual books.

Among the faculty are Donald Farnsworth, Kathryn Clark, Betsy Davids, Clifford Burke, Kevin Osborn, and Joan Lyons, who will teach a master workshop on visual books.

For more information, write for brochure and registration forms to Summer Workshops, California College of Arts and Crafts, 5212 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94618.

■ Ulises Carrion's substantial presentation at the Artists' Publications Conference in Rochester in November 1979 has now been reprinted in the *Print Collector's Newsletter* for March-April 1980, under the title "Bookworks Revisited." We think this is must reading for all those interested in artists' books and artists' publications. For copies, write to PCN, 16 East 82nd St., New York, NY 10028. \$4.00.

■ *BOOKWORKS: WASHINGTON, D.C.*, curated by Terry Braunstein showed at the Washington Project for the Arts and included 65 works by 30 artists, including the whole spectrum of directions such as conceptual, tactile, book-objects, and narrative books. The exhibition took place from 4 - 29 March.

■ Nexus in Philadelphia recently showed *The Reading Room: An Exhibition of Artist's Books*, with guest curator, Ann Sue Hirshorn. The exhibition took place from 28 March through 17 May and included lectures by Jacki Apple, the curator of the show, visual diaries by Sandra Lerner, the new technology and books by Suzanne Horvitz, a brief history of artists' books by Ginny Butera, and the Turtle Island Press owners, Dan Tucker and Claire Owen speaking about producing artists' books. Nexus is located at 2017 Chancellor, Philadelphia, PA.

■ *In Celebration of Book Art*, three days of intensive book arts activity, was held from 16 - 18 April in Richmond at the Virginia Commonwealth University, which enabled several hundred people to see a wide range of bookworks, hear speakers explicate art in bookform, and for some, to experiment making a collaborative book.

Clive Phillpot, Museum of Modern Art, and Jacki Apple, formerly of the Franklin Furnace Archive, gave participants the historic background and current activity of book art. Phillpot's talk, *Books Unlimited*, dealt with works produced in multiple editions intended for purchase by a growing audience. This tied in directly with one of the exhibits, "For the People: Contemporary Artists' Books," which featured 108 works. All of the works came from the Cabell Library's larger permanent collection of artists' books and were displayed in the Special Collection room where they are permanently housed.

Apple's talk was on books produced in one-of-a-kind editions. Her talk was connected with the exhibition in the University Art Gallery of 34 unique pieces curated by the Franklin Furnace Archive, "Visual and Sculptural Bookworks."

The exhibition catalog produced for these two shows includes an original wordwork by Davi Det Hompson, "Turn this page to make your pennies work wonders", with such thoughts on books as, "There's no money in this. But I think books got to be cheap. I keep my prices the same as a loaf of bread. Bread and books have a lot in common you know." The catalog is free for the asking, just include stamps for postage.

The workshop included 21 participants, who exchanged visual and verbal materials and incorporated them with materials the participant brought himself or herself. Scott Hyde, artist of the *CAPS Book*, *Dust Map* and the *Real Great Society Album*, provided assistance to designers, artists and students who had never attempted to work in book form. *Swap* will be published in an edition of 1,000 and along with a color videotape of the workshop will be available to the public at a later date.

Information on *Swap* and the videotape, as well as requests for the exhibition catalog which is still available, may be directed to Janet Dalberto, VCU, Cabell Library Collection Development, 901 Park Ave., Richmond, VA 23284.

■ The new 1980 Book Bus Catalog is available from Visual Studies Workshop, 31 Prince St., Rochester, NY 14607.

● Artworks, 66 Windward Ave., Venice, CA 90291 is the largest outlet of rubber stamp books and postcards from Stempelplaats in Amsterdam. Later this summer, a checklist of all domestic and international rubber stamp books will be issued by Artworks. If you are interested in rubber-stamp bookworks, please let Artworks make a selection for you on approval and ship it out to you.

A new selection of foreign bookworks will be available in early fall.

## PERFORMANCE

On 19 May, in the middle of the rush hour at 7:45 a.m. at least 30 radio stations along Highway 5 in California will play a tape of infectious laughter. The event, dubbed "A Pacific Ha," is expected to take off from there, encouraging people from Bellingham, WA to San Diego to shake the coast with America's biggest laugh.

The first and last laugh will belong to Judith Auda, a conceptual artist from San Francisco who began organizing the event two years ago and whose chuckle will be included on the tape. "I don't think anybody really laughs enough," she said.

Mrs. Auda is experienced in organizing events such as this. In 1974, she put together a "kite lift" in which 50 kites flew from each of 10 hills in San Francisco. "Our intent was to see if we could lift San Francisco off the peninsula," she said. Two years later she had people bury helium-filled balloons in the sands at Ocean Beach, CA; the balloons were released by the incoming tide. (NEW YORK TIMES)

■ Another California artist, sculptor Gene Thompson, has been working with rockets since the spring of 1967, with the blessing of the Federal Aviation Administration.

In 1979 for the fourth of July, a rocket was fired outside the Nassau County Museum in Roslyn, Long Island. It went up to nearly 10,000 feet, traveled 20 miles with a chaser plane in attendance. It was made of mirrored Mylar, 6 feet in diameter and 85 feet long. It had 4,000 feet of colored streamers. This year, Thompson has a new and bigger model, another example of public sculpture.

■ L'Etoile du Nord/the Northern Star recently sent *Umbrella* an announcement from Moscow, telling us about their performance called "Nice & Easy". We also got a P.S. from administrative art of Sweden so that means this is the first contact from Russia by foreign artists in a long time.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Critica 1, Art from Whom to Whom, was an international conference from 27 - 30 March in Montecatini Terme, sponsored by the Comune of Montecatini T., and of Prato. Included was the first exhibition of museum media as well. Participants included Jean-Christophe Ammann, Alanna Heiss, Rudi Fuchs, David Shapiro, Lea Vergine, Pierre Restany, Robert Smith, Geoffrey James, Jim Melchert, Thomas Messer, Franco Tor-

riani, Achille Bonito Oliva, Richard Cork, Umberto Eco, Germano Celant, Lawrence Alloway, Lucy Lippard, just to name a few.

■ Cologne announces its International Exhibition Cologne 1981, Contemporary Art since 1939. More than 500 art works will be exhibited, as well as 9 films, and other supporting programs and events from 30 May 1981 to 16 August 1981.

■ There is a desperate attempt in Antwerp, headed by Jane Crawford, a filmmaker and Gordon Matta-Clark's widow, to save "Office Baroque", a six-story office building in Antwerp that Matta-Clark cut from ground floor to roof in 1976.

More than 230 artists from 20 countries have contributed works, such as Vito Acconci, Alice Aycock, Christo, Robert Kushner, Sol LeWitt, Noguchi, Rauschenberg. The plan is to sell the works as a collection to raise the money to buy the "Office Baroque" and its adjacent property. Crawford would like the Belgian people to buy the collection for \$3 million, and then she could afford to house the collection in a new museum to be built on the site, that would also incorporate "Office Baroque."

Now three Belgian collectors have offered a total of \$500,000 toward the purchase of the office building, and the Gordon Matta-Clark Foundation has been set up to receive further donations (address: 551/252 1500/54 Banque de Paris et Pays-Bas, Antwerp, Belgium).

■ A partial coverup was ordered for a giant mural in the Beijing's airport's main restaurant that depicts the annual water festival of the Dai people. Two of the figures, bosomey women, are naked. At first praised, when it was first opened on New Year's Day, the mural now has curtains hung in front of its most sensational panel. To discourage peekers, coat racks were placed in front of the curtains. "The mural is being reformed and revised," said airport spokesmen.

■ "Glimpses of America", an exhibition of 140 photographs by 19 photographers is the first exhibition in China of color photographs by American photographers.

■ Recently, in Venice, Italy, the Mayor of Venice unveiled a monument by Arbit Blatas, the Lithuanian-born American sculptor and painter, in memory of all the Jews who were caught in the Holocaust brought by the Nazis against the Jews.

The monument consists of seven bronze

bas-relief tablets mounted on an old brick wall next to a Jewish old peoples' home and across the campo, or square, from a small synagogue.

## INTERNATIONAL VISUAL ARTISTS EXCHANGE PROGRAM:

—organizes direct swaps of studio and living space internationally.

—EXCHANGE OPEN TO ALL VISUAL ARTISTS.

—Register now for holiday, work periods or sabbatical year.

—Contact Deborah Gardner, 201 Varick St., New York, NY 10014, Box 146. Tel. (212) 929-6688.

## ART MARKET

Tokyo's Bridgestone Museum, a private museum founded by the late Japanese tire manufacturer, recently purchased Picasso's "Saltimbanque Seated with Arms Crossed" for \$3 million.

■ A Van Gogh painting, "Garden of the Poet" was sold at auction recently for \$5.2 million, the highest price ever paid for an impressionist painting. The painting was sold to an anonymous telephone bidder.

■ Norton Simon recently paid \$3.7 million for "The Resurrection" by Dieric Bouts, painted about 1460.

## PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

*80 Langton Street, June 1978 - May 1979* is a catalog of performances and events that occurred at 80 Langton Street, an alternative space, in San Francisco. With an introduction by Robert McDonald and an essay by critic Robert Atkins, we have an important documentation of events with photographs. Price unavailable.

*The Diana Show: Pictures through a Picture Lens* by David Featherstone is a publication of The Friends of Photography in Carmel, California, *Untitled 21*. This exhibition catalog is important and can be acquired for \$7.95 from the Friends of Photography, P.O. Box 239, Carmel, CA 93921.

*The Swimming Lessons*, a videotape by Robert C. Morgan, 30 minutes, 3/4 inch cassette in color, is available for sale or rental from Media Resource Center, Ablah Library, 1845 Fairmount Ave., Wichita State University, Wichita, KS 67208.