

MAIL ART & VISUAL POETRY

NEWS

Multiplicity for Millions: The Art & History of Rubber Stamps had a run from 17 January - 4 April at the Minnesota Center for Book Arts in Minneapolis with activities, performance, and 80 vintage rubber stamp sets from the private collections of L. Scott Helmes and Picasso Gaglione.

"Seasoned Greetings" is an article about antique postcards as a collectors craze in the Los Angeles Times for 22 February 2004.

NAME GAME: New Research Project: Specific Research Institute Canada announces a new research project, **Calling all AKA's**. If you, or someone you know, use and are known by an assumed name, nickname/pseudonym, and are willing to engage in a research project that will ask for details of how that name came about; how, why you chose to use it rather than your given name(s), how using it has affected your self image, your life, work, relations with friends, family, workmates, etc., they want to hear from you.

The project sets out to explore the relationship between one's name, identity, creative activities, life style, and more. Stage 1) to identify individuals who fit the description, 2) A questionnaire probing the above issues and more, and to identify those individuals who would be willing to engage in...3) Meet with, conduct a video interview and tape or photograph your work/collection/whatever it is you have that relates to/reflects your assumed name for an eventual...4) installation/presentation/possible publication of the results of this research. Contact Anna Banana, RR22, 3747 Hwy. 101, Roberts Creek, BC, Canada V0N 2W2 or a_banana@sunshine.net

The Cleveland Public Library has just made accessible a small online exhibition of mail art. Baron's Mail Art Collection is a recent acquisition in the Library's Special Collections. The address is: www.cpl.org/ExhibitHall.asp?FormMode=Exhibit&ID=23 If this link does not work, try www.cpl.org. Go to the exhibit hall tab on the upper heading bar. This should lead you to a selection of exhibitions. The mail art exhibition is the newest exhibition and is top on the list at the left of the screen.

IconoGraphs, an exhibition of "The Greek Visual Poetry Group" (1981) with the participation of

Agrafiotis, Chryssikopoulos, Costis, Gazetopoulou, Hadjidaki, Hondros, Hytiris, Katsiani, Martinou, Mitras, Sarris and Sotiropoulou, curated by Mano Stefanidis was held at the Hellenic-American Union, Art Space The Apple in Athens, October 2003. Except for a foreward and last page, the whole catalog is in Greek, but it is a splendid catalog and should be in all collections.

Mail Censorship: The U.S. Postal Service in September refused to deliver 300 picture postcard announcements of an upcoming exhibition at Daemen College's (Buffalo, NY) art gallery, saying the postcards were obscene. Outraged, Daemen officials charged denial of artistic expression. The fuss was over a painting of two young women seen from behind as they move toward the sea at night during an apparent storm. Left unclear is whether the women are wearing underwear, bathing suits or neither. The painting was included in the show, "Joseph A. Miller: Paintings and Drawings."

The cards were returned to the bulk mailer with a page copied from a post office manual, citing a code definition "Lewd or Filthy Matter." So the university sent the time-sensitive postcards in envelopes. An art professor said that what puzzled him is the fact that the U.S. Post Office has no problem delivering catalogs for companies like Victoria's Secret, where photographs of women posed in sexually provocative positions are in full view. After considerable review by postal authorities, an apology was made that they determined an error in judgment was made in rejecting the postcards as unmailable.

Decentralized Networking Congress 2004 in Minden, Germany, organized by Angela + Peter Netmail from 23 - 25 April 2004 with Artist Trading Cards event, Mail Art Exhibition "1000 Envelopes" by Ruud Janssen and Litsa Spathi, a Performance Night and other festivities. For more information, contact DNC 2004, P.B. 2644, D 3 2 3 8 3 Minden, Germany or peterkuestermann@hotmail.com and see the website:

www.netmailart.de

The Future of the Postal Service has a President's Commission which is considering personalized postage stamps, featuring the kids, the dog, the company logo. Such special issue stamps, sold at a premium, are some