
ArtPEOPLE

Ann Mikolowski, a remarkable Michigan artist, who with her husband Ken, a poet, teamed up in 1969 to publish the Alternative Press, which marked its 30th anniversary this year with an exhibition at the University of Michigan Graduate Library in September and October, died of breast cancer at the age of 59. The Mikolowskis sent out one to three mailings a year, including a collection of multiple-original postcards by artists, broadsides by poets and bumper stickers with such slogans as "You are what you art." She did the visual work and he did the editing. Together they set the type of their letter presses. The Alternative Press, represented in libraries across the country, played an important part in Detroit's Cass corridor art movement of the 1970s by drawing artists together and giving them a voice. This issue of *Umbrella* is dedicated to Ann.

Leo Lionni, who introduced an introspective sensibility to children's literature through the metaphorical characters Frederick, Swimming and Little Blue and Little Yellow, died in October at the age of 89.

Edward C. Bassett, internationally prominent architect whose work ranged from the Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, died at the age of 77.

Bernard Buffet, critically scorned but commercially popular French painter who had two museums in Japan dedicated to his work, committed suicide in October at the age of 71.

Emil Schumacher, one of postwar Germany's leading abstract Expressionist artists, died while vacationing on the island of Ibiza in Spain at the age of 87.

George Sugarman, New York artist who created controversial and colorful large-scale sculptures from California to Europe, died at the age of 87 in New York in late August.

Robert Blanchon, young artist of 33, who worked at the University of California Irvine and the California Institute of Arts as a conceptual artist employing various media but primarily photography. While teaching at the Art Institute School he died in Chicago of complications from AIDS-related illnesses.

Winners of the Daimler Chrysler Design Awards (a trophy and \$10,000) for 1999 include **John Maeda**, a digital artist at the MIT's Media Laboratory's **Karim Rashid**, an industrial designer who gave trash receptacles unexpected

sex appeal with his plastic Garbo wastepaper basket; **Peter Girardi**, a co-founder of Funny Garbage, a digital design production company; **Pablo Ferro**, a maker of film title sequences, including one featuring the fractured face of Steve McQueen in the original "Thomas Crown Affair"; **Gael Towey**, creator of the Martha Stewart look in all its guises, and the architectural team of **Jesse Reiser and Nanako Umemoto**, recent finalists in the competition to redesign the Penn Station rail yards.

Rev. Leonard E. Boyle, the former keeper of manuscripts and chief librarian of the Vatican Library, who was dismissed from his post in 1997, died in October at the age of 75. His modernization of the Vatican Library, including opening access to materials in the library, contributed to his departure in the Vatican Library. He also computerized the library's ancient catalogs, wired the main reading room for laptops, hired women for the first time and liberalized the strict dress code.

Rafael Alberti, one of Spain's most popular poets and the last member of the "Generation of 1927", including the poet Garcia Lorca, the film director Bunuel, and the Surrealist artist Salvador Dali., died at the age of 95 in October.

National Humanities Medals for 1999 have gone to **Michael Graves**, architect and designer and sculptor **George Segal**, among others.

Marilyn Silverstone, famed first as a photographer for *Art News* and other art and design magazines, then becoming a full member of Magnum, covering such big events as the arrival of the Dalai Lama in India, died in a monastery near Katmandu in late September. But Tibetan Buddhism beckoned her and she was ordained as a nun in 1987. She had founded a nunnery several years ago near Katmandu, one of the first Tibetan Buddhist nunneries outside of Tibet.

Jeanne Miles, an American painter of luminous geometric abstractions, the first woman to enroll in the art school at George Washington University, having exhibited with the Betty Parsons Gallery in New York during the gallery's heyday and counted artists like Mark Rothko, Clyfford Still and Bradley Walker Tomlin among her friends. She was 90 when she died.

Eugene Ostroff, the former curator of photography at the Smithsonian Institution, an authority on the history of photography as a technology and an influential lecturer and writer on photographic conservation, died in late August at the age of 71.

Hilary Tjader Harris, an experimental and documentary filmmaker and kinetic sculptor, died in October at the age of 69. A filmmaker, influenced by the work of Moholy-Nagy, Harris explored the possibilities of abstract motion. He also was a pioneer in the development of time-lapse photography. In the 1980s, he moved to Woodstock, NY, where he designed and built his own house, shaped like a spaceship, and worked at designing a computer-oriented "drawing machine."

Lowery Stokes Sims is the new director of the Studio Museum in Harlem, leaving her job as curator of 20th-century art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She takes over her job on 3 January and will have **Thelma Golden** as the chief curator.

M.C. Richards, poet, potter, essayist, translator and painter, who taught at Black Mountain College in the late 1940s and then became an impassioned advocate of community in both art and life, died in September at the age of 83. At Black Mountain around 1950 she participated in what might have been the first "happening" with Cage, Olson, Rauschenberg and Franz Kline.

Lawrence M. Small, a Renaissance man who is fluent in many languages, plays flamenco music, collector of tribal masks and totems, among others, is the new secretary, or chief executive, of the Smithsonian Institution, effective January 2000.

Johann Gutenberg, the medieval German goldsmith who invented the printing press, has been voted The Sunday Times Man of the Millennium in a unique poll of the world's most powerful and influential people.

Winston Churchill, the prime minister who inspired Britain to defeat Germany in the Second World War, was voted the most significant figure of the 20th century. 100 world leaders, artists and scientists were asked to judge who are the most significant figures of the past 1,000 years. The results were often unexpected. Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, voted for Andrei Sakharov, the Soviet scientist who built the first Russian H-bomb and then spent the rest of his life protesting against it, winning the Nobel peace prize in 1975. He died in 1989.

Many found it a tough question. White House sources said Bill Clinton was torn between John F Kennedy, his boyhood idol, and Martin Luther King, the civil rights leader, for his 20th century vote. But he felt Thomas Jefferson, author of the American Declaration of Independence, was a "strong contender" for the millennium title. The top ten Makers of the millennium are: 1. **Johann Gutenberg** 2. **William Shakespeare** 3.

William Caxton 4. **Leonardo da Vinci** 5. **Elizabeth I** 6. **Michael Faraday** 7. **Owain Glyndwr** 8. **Sir Isaac Newton** 9. **Abraham Lincoln** 10. **Galileo**.

Peter Eisenman has won the first IFCCA Prize Competition for the Design of Cities, a \$100,000 award given by the International Foundation for the Canadian Centre for Architecture, with a design which he describes as "the first urban icon of the new millennium." The design transforms a major portion of midtown Manhattan into an east-west park stretching along the West 30s from Hudson St. to 8th Ave., creating what he calls a "fold" in the urban fabric that would connect with Hudson River Park.

Alexander Liberman, who was the driving force behind *Vogue*, *Mademoiselle*, *Glamour*, *Self* and other Condé Nast Publications, died at the age of 87. He was also an artist, sculptor and painter.

Horst P. Horst, one of the finest fashion photographers and portraitists of the century, such as Chanel, Gertrude Stein, Salvador Dali, Marlene Dietrich, the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, Jean Cocteau, died in November at the age of 93.

Paul Cadmus, the American artist noted for a virtuosic figurative style ranging from biting social satire to moralizing allegories to sensual, sometimes sentimental male nudes, died in December at the age of 94. In the early days, he had been a photographer, but then turned to printmaking, drawing and then painting (finishing only 2 a year because of the complicated, time-consuming medium of egg tempera). He was part of a circle of friends that included Christopher Isherwood, W.H. Auden, George Balanchine, George Platt Lynes, George Tooker, Lincoln Kirstein, and E.M. Forster. He was the winner of countless awards, among which is the first annual international arts award from Pridefest American, an annual gay cultural festival, in Philadelphia.

Charlotte Perriand, French designer famed for her tubular furniture which she designed with Le Corbusier and Pierre Jeanneret, where she became famous for her chaise longue and the famous cube-shaped Grand Confort chair. She was 96 when she died.

John L. Howard, 97, best known for his murals in San Francisco's Coit Tower, which were painted as part of a larger mural project in 1934, died in November. Appalled by the social horrors of the 1930s, Howard painted his Industry mural in which he painted himself in the mural

crumpling a newspaper and grabbing a volume of the writings of Karl Marx off a bookshelf. When it was unveiled, it created controversy, with many of the city's elite calling for its removal.

Richard Martin, who infused the Costume Institute of the Metropolitan Museum of Art with his deep knowledge of popular culture and art history, died in November at the age of 52 of melanoma. He had been the curator of the Met's costume collection since 1993. Previously, he had been the editor in chief of *Arts Magazine* before being appointed the executive director of the Shirley Goodman Resource Center at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City. His remarkable exhibitions at F.I.T included "The East Village" with a wall of painting, sculpture, music and the club scene. At the Met, one of the stunning exhibitions was called "Wordrobe", a historical look at clothing adorned with words, from poems to political slogans. He described it as "the reconciliation of textile and text, as well as "Cubism and Fashion, "Gianni Versace," Christian Dior," among others. He was a tireless lecturer and reviewer, and wrote more than 100 scholarly papers on subjects such as "Redress of the Nerds: The Assertion of Nerd Style in Men's Clothing and Imagery in the 1980s".

Mary GrandPre of St. Paul, Minnesota created all three covers and inside illustrations for the U.S. editions of the "Harry Potter" fantasy books for children. She will be doing the other four books in the series for Scholastic, yet the artist as of September had never met the author of the books. I'm sure by now they have met, since J.K. Rowling has made her grand book tour through the great U.S. But if anyone is curious, be sure to see www.scholastic.com/harrypotter

Enrique Alferez, 98, New Orleans artist famous for his travels with Pancho Villa, died in New Orleans. At the age of 12, the Mexican-born Alferez began serving with the revolutionary forces led by Villa. He is one of the last survivors of Villa's army, and later settled in New Orleans, where he helped Tulane University scholars reproduce the Mayan Nunnery Quadrangle of Uxmal, Mexico for display at the 1933 Chicago World's Fair. More than 20 of his Art Deco sculptures grace New Orleans City Park, and many others are scattered throughout that city and Mexico. His most renowned sculpture is "Fountain of the Four Winds" that he created for the New Orleans Lakefront Airport in 1937, which included a well-endowed nude male. City officials ordered Alferez to chisel off the genitalia, but the artist refused. To ensure that no one desecrated his artwork, he stood guard

with a rifle until Eleanor Roosevelt intervened to save the statue. Alferez continued sculpting into his 90s and five years ago was given New Orleans' Lifetime Achievement Award.

Sidney Alexander, the author of 15 books on Renaissance history and art, as well as novels, poetry, plays and criticism, died on 11 December at the age of 87. Among his major works were the biography *Marc Chagall* (1978) and his 3-volume historical novel consisting of *Michelangelo the Florentine*, *the Hand of Michelangelo*, and *Nicodemus*, all based on the life of the artist.

Steve McQueen won Britain's most famous and controversial award, the Turner Prize, with his black-and-white silent films inspired by comedian Buster Keaton. The prize, \$32,000, was won last year by Chris Ofili, whose elephant dung-marked Virgin Mary painting sparked outrage when shown in New York in the Sensation show.

Lee Lozano, one of the most celebrated conceptual artists of the 1960s, died in October in Grand Prairie, Texas, and was buried in an unmarked grave according to her wishes, at the age of 69. She died of cervical cancer and regret.

