

PROFILE: harry ruhé, amsterdam

Galerie A of Harry Ruhe in Amsterdam is right in the center of town, comfortable and full of light, and packed with artists' books, records and tapes. Ruhé, interviewed by **Umbrella** last summer, has seen the trends of the times change from catalogs in museums to books by artists, published not even for exhibitions but as a publications program. This is evident at the Abbeuseum in Eindhoven, for instance.

From the early 60s, he saw the bookworks by Jiri Kolar develop into the publications by the Fluxus artists, Lamont Young and George Brecht, Endre Tot and then the books of Ed Ruscha, along with the Beau Geste Press and more. But these books were always of a marginal character. Issues were not of the essence, but merely book formats took over. Now things are different, according to Ruhe, for instead of the small press and poetry works, the unofficial works of Fluxus and the East European samizdat, we get well known artists being published by museums in book format, such as Clemente, Lupertz, Penke and more, with Walther Konig as the official distributor of these select bookworks.

Ruhe, because of his many years dealing with bookworks, helps build collections for museums and collectors, as a special service. For example, the Stedelijk Museum in Amster-

dam now has made an effort to develop a collection thanks to Ruhé, while the Groningen Museum in northern Holland started in the 60s and continued in the 70s but does not seem to be collecting assiduously as before. According to Ruhé, artists' books as a fashion are finished. Today, as in the 70s, artists are exploring new formats, and doing new things in book format, such as Anselm Kiefer and Francesco Clemente, but there is still not as much interest for the self-published book as 10 years ago. The challenge now is to make books beautiful.

Ruhé services libraries all over the world, helping them to find bookworks, filling in gaps in collections, and enjoying putting on exhibitions of artists' books, e.g. the bookworks by documenta artists which he did last summer during the same period as documenta 7 in Kassel. His own personal collection exceeds the imagination, for his sense of timing has been remarkable, and the collection is one of the best in the world. Ruhé believes the bookworks also should involve records and cassettes by artists, and oftentimes multiples. He sells all of these in his gallery and shop. So if you wish to find something, write Harry Ruhé, Galerie A, Kleine Gartmanplantsoen 12, 1017 RR Amsterdam, The Netherlands. He answers his mail right away!

ART PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Al Nodal, Washington Project for the Art's Executive Director for the past five years, is moving to Los Angeles to become head of the gallery of Otis/Parsons School of Art, effective in September 1983.

Keith Haring is now doing illustrations for the op-ed pages of the New York Times as well as covers for trade books.

Les Levine presented New Mass Media Projects, including billboards, photographs and drawings in N.A.M.E. Gallery in Chicago during the month of April. In June he appears at San Francisco Institute of Art for a lecture, and will be having a show at 80 Langton Street, through 25 June.

Alice Whitman Leeds is one of the artists in The Chair Show at BACA's DCC, 111 Willoughby St. in Brooklyn through 25 June.

Richard Kostelanetz' multimedia exhibition Epiphanies (Single-Sentence Stories) appeared at Freedman Gallery on 19 April and the exhibition of Epiphanies cards stayed through 6 May. Freedman Gallery is part of Albright College in Reading, PA. Kostelanetz has a soon-to-be-released record called *Invocations* out on Folkways.

James Hugunin (Los Angeles), **Max Kozloff** (New York) and **Maren Stange** (Washington, DC) were recently awarded the 1983 Reva and David Logan Grants in support of New Writing on Photography, sponsored by the Photographic Resource Center in Boston, and supported by the Logan Foundation and the NEA.

Louise Nevelson was recently awarded the Gold Medal in Sculpture from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters. At the same time, Representative **Sidney R. Yates**, Democrat of Illinois, was given the Award for Distin-

guished Service to the Arts. **Berenice Abbott** and **Ansel Adams** were also inducted as American honorary members into the Institute.

Frank Gehry, the Venice, California-based architect, was selected by the American Academy as the 1983 winner of the Arnold W. Brunner Memorial Prize in Architecture.

Donna Henes has recently held Elegant Evenings for Exceptional Women during the spring season of her Spider Salon in New York City.

John Carson, Irish performance and mail artist, recently appeared in Live Irish Art performance series at the Franklin Furnace in early April. On 14 May he made a farewell performance at Beyond Baroque in Venice, California, before departing for England after two years in the United States.

Kenneth Clark, art historian, museum director, author and narrator of the television series *Civilization*, died recently in England at the age of 79.

Neil Hoffman, dean of Otis Art Institute of Parsons School of Design, has resigned, effective 1 July, to become president of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

S. Dillon Ripley, who has headed the Smithsonian Institution during a nearly 20-year period of growth in which it has become one of the pre-eminent cultural organizations in the world, has announced he will retire in September 1984.

I.M. Pei was awarded the \$100,000 Pritzker Architecture prize.

James A. J. Van Der Zee, whose portraits of famous black Americans won him worldwide acclaim, died at the age of 96 just hours after receiving an honorary degree at Howard University.

Betty Chamberlain, the founder and director of the Art Information Center in New York City, died recently at the age of 75. The Center was founded in 1959 as a service to artists.

Helen & Newton Harrison recently showed 3 Urban Statements (Baltimore, Atlanta, San Jose) at the San Jose State University Art Galleries, including documentation and drawings.

Eric Snell recently showed his Magnetic Drawings at the Touchstone Gallery in New York City.

Marly Snow, director of ALGA International (Anarchist Library Groups of America) and Subsidiaries Artist/Librarian Inc., Artist/Toothbrush Collections Ltd., and Weird Magazines Ltd. recently showed work at the Pacific Regional 83, an art exhibit to benefit ocean studies.

Helene Fried, director of exhibitions at the San Francisco Art Institute, has resigned in order to pursue other professional interests, including projects in the field of cultural planning.

Janet Goldner is showing Prehistoric Sites, a sculptural installation construction of wire mesh forms, at the Phoenix Gallery in New York City through 4 May.

Anne Flaten Pixley showed her paper works and drawings at the Gallery Maronie in Kyoto, Japan in February.

Robert Middlekauff will become director of the Huntington Library, Art Gallery and Botanical Gardens on 1 September. He succeeds James Thorpe, Huntington Director since 1966, who is retiring.

Sebastian (Lefty) Adler was recently fired by the La Jolla Museum of Contemporary Art as its director, due to disagreements over policy and management.

Richard Stankiewicz, the American sculptor whose whimsical scrap-iron constructions made him one of the pioneers of "junk art" and assemblage, died in March at the age of 60.

Anthony Blunt, former art advisor to Queen Elizabeth II and confessed spy for the Soviet Union, died in London at the age of 75.

Andy Warhol has created a poster for the 100th anniversary of the Brooklyn Bridge. He will also start a cable-TV show on the Madison Square Garden Cable Network, a regional cable channel in the New York metropolitan area.

Warhol has also done a series of prints called *Animals: Species at Risk*, prints of animals who are on the endangered species list.

John C. Wood, professor of graphics at Alfred University and renowned bookmaker, has been named an Honored Educator by the Society for Photographic Education.

Carlo Pittore, or Pittore Euforico, recently had a show of his works at Entr'Act in Brussels.

Tommy Mew showed new drawings and an audio cassette tape of "Songs for People over 40" in April in Germany.

Helgi Friojonsson showed new paper prints and paintings at the Living Art Museum in Iceland.

Allan Kaprow gave a lecture on Performance Art at the Massachusetts College of Art in Boston in April. He also did a performance for a number of days for the video installation show in Albuquerque, executing the event from Albuquerque to Santa Fe on the road.

John Miller recently showed new work at The Kitchen in New York City in April.

Carolyn Berry recently showed in 10 on 8, an exhibition space of 10 windows on 8th Avenue at 53rd Street in New York City.

Buster Simpson did the Window Installation at the New Museum through 1 June, during their Seattle art show.

Stephen Spera showed recent constructions, prints and stamps at the Portico Gallery in Philadelphia during April.

George Neubert, associate director of art at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, leaves the Bay Area to assume the position of director at the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, effective 1 August.

Fernand Legros, a flamboyant millionaire art dealer, died recently in France at the age of 52.

F-Stop Fitzgerald recently showed his Weird Angle at Zomo Gallery in Los Angeles, as well as the Lhasa Club in Hollywood.

James Breasted Jr., art historian and former director of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and **Rex Stead**, deputy director of the County Museum of Art from 1967 to 1979 and a specialist in ancient art of the Near East, recently died.

Lisette Model, photographer known throughout the world and teacher at the New School of Social Research for more than 30 years, died in Manhattan at the age of 76.

Joan Miro has been celebrated in Barcelona on the occasion of his 90th birthday. An exhibition opened in Barcelona with Miro's work from the 1920s.

Ruth Weisberg will have a major show at the Jack Rutberg Fine Arts Gallery in Los Angeles from 10 Sept. to 22 October.

Red Grooms designed sets for Jacques d'Amboise's ballet *The Three Musketeers*, a benefit gala for d'Amboise's National Dance Institute.

Christo executed *Surrounded Islands*, the string of 11 islands in Biscayne Bay whose shapes were contoured with 200-foot-wide "skirts" of pink fabric. The project was delayed by 15-knot winds and choppy waters, but it all came together and turned out to be a two-week boon for the Miami tourist industry. One helicopter company gave about 5,000 rides over the islands at \$35 each.

Janet Braun-Reinitz had a show at Pleiades Gallery in New York City of her paintings on paper, called *Reports from the Fire Zone*.

Barton Lidice Benes recently had an exhibition called Money Matters at the Fendrick Gallery in Washington, DC. The works (all collage pieces) now are made of shredded and cut-up paper money, as well as cancelled checks. The exhibition closed on 3 May.