

The two young men who run this publishing and design house are Salvador Saura and Ramon Torrente. Housed in one of those wonderful 19th century brownstone buildings on Calle Mallorca in the beautiful city of Barcelona, Edicions de l'Eixample was founded 11 years ago, first publishing **Documents, 1931-1939**, documenting contemporary Catalan history from historic monographs and documents of the time, including periodical publications which came from the archives of Catalonia.

In the 1980s, there was an economic crisis and many publishing houses closed, so they designed covers of books and did other publicity, including work for the performance group, Comediants. At the end of 1983, however, they made their first book, **Sol Solet**, finishing it in 1984. It was a wild bookwork, full of the symbol of Barcelona, a shining sun, part of the festive rituals of the people, and Carnevale too., but basically a performance that Comediants did throughout Europe since 1978. The name comes from a traditional Catalan song which children sing to bring forth the sun. These spectacles are truly multifaceted, an explosion of happiness beyond any frontiers. With a metal cover, the reader immediately sees it is an unusual book, being invited to travel with the sun across seven books with prologues and epilogues, including postcards, comics, transparent interleaving, etc. Even 3-D glasses are included with the bright smiling sun above them, as well as a paper folded sun that pops up in the middle of the bookwork. I saw a copy of that book at the Frankfurt Book Fair in 1985, but it was almost sold out then. Since that time, it has gone into 4 editions in Catalonia, with one edition in French and 3 editions in Castilian. All in all, it sold 22,000 copies, even with a high price for most of the people in Spain; and it was basically a handmade printed bookwork, a labor of love.

The next bookwork they did was **Carmen**, a boxed edition again out in October 1985, done with the ballet of Antonio Gades from the film by Antonio Saura. This is a photographic narration which includes the power, passion and magic of the spectacle. The texts are brief, and the photographs are mostly diptychs, which allow for the whole breadth of the dance form. There is still a handmade cover with translucent pages, basically remaining an unnumbered multiple. As usual, there is a Catalan edition and a Castilian edition.

During the interview, the two designers showed their passion and pride in their work. Their next book was **Transnarcis**, with the texts and songs by Pau Riba, including a Castilian translation. This is a record-book or a book-record, based on a performance of the same name, under the direction of Juanjo Puigcorber, and performed by Pau Riba on 7 August 1985 in the Plaza del Rey in Barcelona. It is a mythological history, basically a textual narration, but illustrations through olfactory, tactile, gustatory and sound sensations. The book has 48 pages in transparent encasement, with two LPs which are translucent, 8 small booklets of 8 pages each, perfume vials with floral scents, and much more. There are no illustrations, but the smells of flowers make this a travel garden. Several of the passages are reduced, requiring a magnifying lens. Color was used in the text to differentiate and vary the pages. The records are transparent all the way through, since transparency is the theme of this work.

The latest bookwork is **La nit (La Noche)**, which also is part of the performance group, Comediants, full of dreams. The edition was 8000 (3000 in Castilian, 5000 in Catalan). The book comes in a printed black box in which the bookwork is sealed in aluminum foil which you must break in order to own, read and enjoy the book. Inside, pages are die cut, other pages have inserts of the moon; you move from night to day, with various techniques, including op art, photographs, collage, special materials. Stolen dreams on the night of moonlight—it is a magnificent tour de force.

Working with the performance group, Comediants, means that Saura and Torrente are working with an art director, artists, performers, musicians, all perfectly translated into a book. This bookwork, like those proposed in the future, is the work of two remarkable artist-designers, artists who do posters that are spread throughout Europe who also have great ideas for the Olympics in Barcelona.

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Although written in Catalan, the bookworks are universal in meaning for the visuals predominate, and as such create their own international language. Distribution has still not been solved for the United States, but if you wish to find out more about these bookworks, write to the designers, or when you are in Spain or France, look for those large boxed or metallic transparent works. They are eye-catching and different from all others. You won't be disappointed.

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### LATE BREAKING MAIL ART NEWS

**Third Annual Mail Art Exhibit.** A celebration of the Washington (1989) and the Kent (1990) Centennials. Any media, 4 x 8" or smaller, art must be sent by mail. Documentation to all participants. No returns, all work to become part of the City Art Collection. Third Annual Mail

**Third Annual Mail Art Exhibit.** A celebration of the Washington (1989) and the Kent (1990) Centennials. Any media, 4 x 8" or smaller, art must be sent by mail. Documentation to all participants. No returns, all work to become part of the City Art Collection. **Deadline: 15 October 1989.** Exhibition 2 - 29 November at the Kent Public Library. Send to Mail Art, Kent Parks Dept., 220 4th Avenue South, Kent, WA 98032-5895.

## ART PEOPLE

**BUZZ SPECTOR's** work, "Double Reading" was portrayed on the cover of the January 1989 issue of American Libraries, the journal of the American Library Association out of Chicago. Spector's work was first seen at Chicago's Radolph St. Gallery, an "autobiographical work" because every book in his personal library became part of the "freestanding construction," offering "evidences of my tastes and interest."

**ELLEN WALLENSTEIN** showed Dreams Images, photographs, at the Camera Club of New York 11 January- 10 February.

**CHRISTO** and painters **GEORGE MCNEIL**, **AGNES MARTIN**, and **JANE FREILICHER** were among 10 cultural figures recently elected to the American Academy and Institute of Arts & Letters.

**MARIONA BARKUS** showed her Planets paintings at Souther Oregon State College in Ashland, Oregon, 5 - 21 April.

**SCOTT McCARNEY** was in residence at WPA and Bookworks for the month of May. Creator of "visual books," McCarney explored the possibilities of creating an architectural work of art from discarded and thriftshop books. On 18 May he also gave a lecture, showing examples of some of his work.

**IRENE SHWACHMAN (1915-1988)**, a photographer who found the book a wonderful medium for her interests, showing a play of wit, a sense of theater, and a love of combining words and images, which was a logical step after being a photographer, teacher and curator of photography. She had a sense of deep professionalism and playful contradictions. The books she made were beautiful, poignant and metaphorical. Boston and the book world will miss her.

**ANDREAS SENSER**, book artist who used old German manuscripts and painted over them in delicious ways, died of AIDS in New York City.

**JUDY MALLOY** published "OK Research, OK Genetic Engineering, Bad Information: Information Art Describes Technology" in Leonardo, vol. 21, no. 3 (1988).

**FRANK GEHRY** has been selected this year's Pritzker Prize Laureate, consisting of \$100,000 grant and other perks, honoring the architect as the most prestigious architect in America this year.

**REV. TIMOTHY S. HEALY** has been named the new executive officer of the New York Public Library, succeeding Vartan Gregorian.

**JAMES ENYEART** is the new Director of the International Museum of Photography at George Eastman House in Rochester, New York.

**WILLIAM OLANDER**, senior curator at the New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York City, died from AIDS on 18 March.

**HOLLIS STAUBER** has been appointed the new Executive Director of the Minnesota Center for Book Arts, succeeding founding Director, Jim Sitter, who has assumed duties as head of the Coordinating Council of Literary Magazines in New York.

**NICHOLAS CALAS**, 81, an art critic and poet who focused on young artists and new art movements, died in Manhattan in January.

**ELAINE DE KOONING** and **ISAMU NOGUCHI** died in early 1989.

**DAPHNE MURRAY** has been chosen by President Bush as the new director of the Institute for Museum Services. She is a good friend of Barbara Bush.

**MILLARD SHEETS**, California-born artist, designer, muralist, author and teacher, died on the Mendocino coast at the age of 81.