

# ARTISTS' BOOKS: news and reviews

## NEWS

Walton Harris and Darryl Vance have begun a new periodical called *Modern Cracker*, which includes book reviews of artists' books, art organizations, art exhibitions in Atlanta, plus works contributed by artists from all over. The magazine is a cooperative venture so that artists either pay for inclusion or send in material and hope they get in.

Write to Wall Tone, 173 Battery, Atlanta, GA 30307. Walton also publishes *Maganada*, a miniature magazine, "art for the Dutch-impaired." All is in the tradition of Orworks and *Cabaret Voltaire*.

■ The address of Bookspace, a shop that sells artists' books and artists' publications exclusively, is 3262 N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60657. They have a new catalog.

■ Nigel Greenwood Inc. Ltd. Books, 41 Sloane Gardens, London SW1W 8EB now has List 20 available with books listed from all over the world.

■ Street Editions announces its first two publications: *Monday Morning Movie* by Barbara Cesery and Marilyn Zuckerman, and Lyn Mandelbaum's *Consider Yourself Lucky*. For further information, write to Street Editions, 20 Desbrosses St., New York, NY 10013.

■ In *Drawing*, Vol. 1, no. 1, there is an interview with Amy Baker, editor of Lapp Princess Press, who talks about the making of artists' books at length.

■ Printed Matter has a new catalog out for \$2.00 from PM, 5 - 7 Lispenard, New York, NY 10013.

■ Ian Shipley (Books) Ltd. is a new bookshop in Covent Garden, specializing in literature and the arts, with an occasional listing for artists' books. Two of the books which they distribute are *Pertaining to a Structure* by Lawrence Weiner, with photos by Daniel Buren for £3.00 and *Tableaux* by Boyd Webb with an essay by Stuart Morgan for £3.50. Address is 34 Floral St., London WC2.

■ The new address for **ecart-gallery & ecart/books** is ecart, c.p. 253, ch 1211 geneva 1, Switzerland.

## EXHIBITIONS

Ohio State University Art Galleries had an exhibition of artists' books from 29 October through 18 November, with a sampling from Printed Matter, Visual Studies Workshop, La Mabelle, etc. Mail art was also included.

An article by Donald E. Harvey, Asst. Professor of Art at the University of Akron concerning this exhibition appeared in *Dialogue*, Ohio's Art Journal, for November/December 1979, entitled "Are Artists' Books being Misread?"

*Artists and Books: The Literal Use of Time* is being held at the Ulrich Museum of Art at Wichita State University in Wichita, KS from 21 November through 16 December. A checklist catalog with short explanatory text by Robert C. Morgan will accompany the show, and copies can be ob-

tained from him at the College of Fine Arts, Wichita State University, Wichita, KS 67208.

*Womens Bookworks* is a catalog of a travelling exhibition organized under the auspices of Powerhouse Gallery, Montreal, and funded by the Canada Council, and others. Boxed, bilingual, and beautifully printed with illustrations for each item, the catalog is available from the gallery, 3738 St. Dominique, Montreal H2X 278, Canada. The show was curated by Sarah McCutcheon.

*Artists' Publications in Print 1979-80* is the publication of the Associated Art Publishers Network, edited by Judith A. Hoffberg, and sent to libraries, museums, galleries and collectors all over the world. It includes almost 60 different artists-publishers who announce new books for 1980 or illustrate their titles from 1979.

If any copies are left after 1979, they will be available from Umbrella.

## REVIEWS

*Letters to Jill* by Pati Hill is a catalogue and some notes on copying, written as letters to Jill Kornblee. Hill explains how she transformed from writer to artist as she used the copy machine. The diaristic approach lets us get to know Pati, who is indeed a consummate copy artist, and gives us pointers as to the use of the copy machine. Includes biographical sketch and chronology. \$5.00 from Visual Studies Workshop Book Bus and from Artworks.

*A Story of Sexual Harassment* by Barbara Margolies is in the form of calling cards, onto which has been inserted a key ring with a whistle (police-type) and a key. The text tells how she received a phone call at 6:45 a.m., from a male, who spoke to her in obscenities. The images on each card refer to the photo of her house, texts detailing tenants' rights, catalog items about locks, demonstrations of self-defense for women, and a final visual statement made by blotting out the address (since she does not feel safe there anymore). A moving object-book which makes its point! \$6.00 from Artworks.

*New Wilderness 8: New Wild Earnest Letter* by Ken Friedman is a take-off on the Fluxus friends he has from Eleanor and David Antin, Jerry Rothenberg, to the Harrisons (San Diego) and then to Jackson Mac Low, Pauline Oliveros, Allan Kaprow, to Charlie Morrow of the New Wilderness Foundation and New York friends Peter Frank, Jack Ox, Lyn Mandelbaum et al. The inimitable Friedman drawings are the link in this chain, available for \$2.50 from most artists' bookshops.

*Lesley Foxcroft: A Book of Drawings*, which accompanied the installation in June 1979 at the Graeme Murray Gallery in Edinburgh, Scotland, is a handsomely printed, subtly perceptive series of grid drawings, whose subtlety can only be realized by seeing it for yourself. 48 pages, \$7.00 from Artworks.

*Multiple Listing, 1980* is the new calendar from Nancy Webber who photographed houses that seemingly were made

from the same set of plans within a 30-block area in San Pedro, California. The differences are slight except the ones executed by the owner. The variations are made more by the owner than by the contractor, and two of each are photographed on each page (month) of the year. \$4.95 from Artworks.

*News in Brief/Chinese Peasants* is a beautifully conceived silkscreened bookwork, done by the author of *American Exchange*, Leland Fletcher. Here we have a book made of 100% rag paper, where the subject matter involves newspaper pages upon which red ants crawl. One reads headlines of recent news, articles on environment and ecology, news about Turkey, and indeed about Chinese peasants, as the ants merrily go on their way across the page. The book is a very fine piece of art, and its success is not only dependent upon the ants, but also upon the imagery, the detail, and the fine production. The feel of the rag paper is a joy! \$50.00 from Artworks.

*Memories of the Future* by masterful surrealist artist Gordon Wagner brings us his art in book form. Included are 19 reproductions of lithographed plates and 12 pages of poetry in which "the psyche of everyman is reflected. . ." Famous for his boxes which literally are stage-sets for surrealist imagery, Wagner is represented in more than 450 private and public collections in the United States, Mexico and Europe. He has just left for Ghent, where he will be residing for a few years.

*Ships Log* by William T. Wiley (the painter who is currently having a show at Alan Frumkin Gallery in New York City) is a beautifully executed log of a ship becalmed in a pair of docks (paradox), and thereby hangs the log. Bound in a wood-like paper cover, this book has plays on words, phrases, and puns to lay one back in laughter page after page. Drawings interplay with the words, and just as the pen may run out of ink, so the print runs out into gray and more gray on the last page, when Capt. William T. Wiley writes, "I've never met anyone who wasn't some kind of Romantic. Seems like a good place to stop." \$5.00 from Artworks and other stores.

*Passage Past Age (Details timed) May 17, 1977* by L. E. Millar is a passage through time, with details of history, its beginnings, what we have lived, what we pass on as details, using a Xerox photograph of a Waltham watch to keep time, mere minutes through history—the crossing of wagons through Montana and the saga that transpired, with Nez Perce, Yakima and Walla Walla Indian tribes. \$5.00 from Artworks, a memory piece, a timepiece.

Gene Beery of Northern California has been making books made of words that make one laugh out loud. The first book, *Title (Front Cover) Author* (\$4.50) just does that—plays on the construction of a book from Inside Front Cover to Back Cover.

The next book, *Title, Author (Front Cover)* articulates each page, so that it is called *The Great Articulator* by Gene B. Beery. It too is outrageous. \$3.50 from Artworks.

Pawel Petasz from Elblag, Poland is a consummate rubber-stamp artist, not only for his imagery, but because he makes his rubber stamps from erasers, due to the political stance of his government. At any rate, his books speak tomes of his society, of his humor, of his philosophy of life. *Obsolete Rubber Stamps, vol. II* in an edition of 25 handstamped and stapled copies seem to be cancelled rubber stamps, but cancelled by the artist, whose self-portrait adorns the cover (in rubber-stamped glory). \$10.00

*12 Pages of Contemplation* includes autobiographical experiences with the governmental authorities and social mores of his time. One image shows "How many beautiful ideas are walking around?" leading to "I can't help thinking he's still alive." A deep book, finely executed in rubber stamps. \$10.00

His latest book, *Transparent Self Portrait*, is executed on translucent paper. The pages are hand rubberstamped, and not in sequence, but the last page tells the reader to remove pages 1, 2, and 3 and close the book and look through it against the light. A performance piece, a collaborative piece, a moving piece. \$10.00

*Impressions, A Pocket Manual for Aesthetic Wear* by William Linehan is an amazing book in an edition of 200, with 15 fabric samples from garment leather to rabbit hair knit, interfaced with paper pages. As the author says it, "A small, tidy package (book) which condenses and categorizes the accumulation of complex Fine Art issues and data of the Post Modern, self-laden '70s into an easy to view, infinitely pocketable, pocket manual. A veritable wardrobe for sensu-esthetic ware and a must for the sincere but bedazzled gallery tripper. Its most urgent message seems to be: "Don't be caught with your pants down facing the avant-garde in the museums or galleries of the '80s. From minimal art to language-narrative, we have a fashion show in the manner of Robert Kushner, but conceptually only William Linehan's." \$20.00 from Artworks or from William Linehan, 1755 Belle Plaine, Chicago, IL 60613.

**Norwegian Artists' Books.** These books can be purchased for \$5.00 each from the Sonja Henie-Niels Onstad Foundations, 1311 Kunstsentret, Hovikodden, Norway, or can be exchanged for other artists' books for their collection.

*Erling Stuart Rohde* demonstrates dictionary meanings with his wood sculpture, defining curve, ladder, plough, spade, fence, ending with bridge. Published in Amsterdam, since he has been working there for some time, this book is well made and a bargain.

*Arbeider & Notater: Marianne Heske: Works & Notes.* Her concern with the human figure, or indeed the individual in confrontation with society, has led Marianne Heskes into masks, video, postcards, sculpture, phrenological analyses and photo-montages. The book has many philosophical overtones and should be in any collection of artists' books. \$5.00 again from the same address—or in exchange.

*Addi Koepke/In Memoriam Envelope* is a publication in limited edition published for the galerie Marika Malacord, which includes a series of documents, original photographs, offset documents from the Archive of Hans Sohm which

relate to this member of the Fluxus Movement who died in 1977 in Copenhagen. A beautifully conceived tribute to a fine artist beloved by many. 35 Sfr. from ecart books, c.p. 253, ch 1211 geneva 1, Switzerland.

*High School* is a reminiscence from scrapbooks done by Claire Keith. Here she has made a miniature album in color Xerox, tied in a blue cord, with pages from actual memorabilia from her high school days in Brawley, California. We all reminisce with her with corsages, football games, proms, valentines, Girls' State, etc. A delightful jarring of the memory track for \$3.50.

In addition, she has just published *Great Teachers*, a conceptual project about learning, which had been destined as a gallery exhibition, but instead has changed into a book. Keith wrote to a long list of people whom she actually knew as teachers or who personally influenced her as a teacher would do, e.g., J. S. Bach, Chopin, Fred Astaire, Ethel Mer- man, Botticelli, Lawrence Durrell, John Updike, Isak Dine- sen, Lillian Helman, Jack Burnham and so many more.

In wanting to honor her mentors, she sent letters to each, asking for photos and replies. Receipt of the responses im- plied consent for use in the exhibition. The book is deep, allowing the reader to reflect not only upon Keith's life, but to begin reflecting upon one's own. We think the book succeeds in many ways, and photos and letters make a new chapter in her life. \$12.50 from Artworks.

*Telling Time* by Judy Levy is a tour de force. Made from haloid masters made on the early Xerox machine and then from offset, the book becomes a game, a play, and a set- ting for innovations and memories. Each page is brushed with some presence of the artist. Cards are inserted in pockets which have been placed on several pages. The cards are numbered and tell a tale of words which elicit the passage of time, but the reader can change the se- quence of the cards, making a new story each time. Illustrated with photographs and haunting faces, the words suggest interpretation of images, and vice-versa. The cards penetrate the memory, generate visual images which sometimes are on the opposite page and sometimes are in the mind of the viewer, and the cards serve as new doors to new stories to new memories. Each page is impacted with hundreds of years of time, filled with joys and sorrows, minutes and hours. Words and images set forth a stream of consciousness, and the book remains a new event each time you open it.

A remarkable book, available for \$15.00 from the Book Bus and Artworks.

*Fragments, Shadows, Veils, Mists* by Gena Cooper is a color Xerox book, in which the words, fragments and verses are Xeroxed on transparent sheets which overlay the color Xerox photographs of veils, mists and shadows, shadows of the life of a woman, a personal woman's tale done in words, and beautiful color photographs. A most moving book for \$24.00 from Artworks.

*Typings (1974-1977)* by Christopher Knowles is a remar- cable book of typewritten pages done by this masterful artist of the typewriter. The first section is Poems, but

these are poems of someone who loves music, who is stimulated by the theater, performance and music all together. Knowles, performer and artist, has had his work in *Einstein on the Beach* by Robert Wilson.

The second part of this book is *Other Typings* which includes many visual pieces, scenarios for performances, and some of the multi-colored typewritten works of this very talented artist. One must see these to believe them, for Knowles can build the Empire State Building with his typewriter, and can touch your heart with his type- writer all at the same time.

The book, published by Vehicle Editions, is beautifully produced and is available from Artworks for \$12.50.

All artists' books reviewed in these columns are available from ARTWORKS, 66 Windward Ave., Venice, CA 90291.

