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## NEWS AND NOTES

"Americans call the problem brittle books," writes Patricia Battin in Logos. "To the Norwegians, it's sour books -- "sure boker"--and to the Germans, "Broselbuch", or the book of crumbs. But the French use the subtlety of their language to project the true horror of the world's potential loss--livres incommunicables, or silent books. If books are silent, our history is lost to us." Here's for noisy books!

### ARTS HOTLINE

Artists seeking information about grants, art law, housing, insurance and other professional matters can now call the Arts Resource Consortium Library **toll-free from anywhere in the country** with their questions. Funded by \$33,500 from the Sharpe Art Foundation in Colorado Springs and administered by the American Council for the Arts, the new hotline is billed as a referral service in which library staffers "match caller interests with a database of information resources." The hotline was dreamed up by the Sharpe foundation's artist advisory committee, some of whom are Janet Fish, Chuck Close, Robert Storr and Irving Sandler, and is designed especially for more isolated artists not plugged in to already-existing networks. The service operates Monday - Friday from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. EST. Call 1-800-232-2789.

The Marie Walsh Sharpe Art Foundation in Colorado Springs has also set up a Space Program, providing artists with free studio space in New York for up to one year, with the option to reapply for a second. Artists submit ten slides, a resume, and a one-page statement indicating why they need the space. **January 31, 1992** is the next deadline.

### LOST AND FOUND

Thieves broke into the Czech National Gallery through a glass door early in May and stole four paintings by Picasso valued at \$30 million. Police arrived at the museum 17 minutes after an alarm sounded, but

failed to capture the thieves. The Gallery is next door to the home of President Havel's residence.

The priceless treasures stolen from Kauwaiti museums during Iraq's seven-month occupation of Kuwait have been preserved and will soon be returned to the liberated emirate as demanded by the U.N. Security Council. The treasures include one of the world's largest collections of Islamic art, including gold jewelry and statues.

Believe it or not, Casa Batilo, an eight-floor residence in Barcelona by visionary architect, Antonio Gaudi is up for sale. Sotheby's International Realty is currently accepting offers - of \$110 million or more.

**SAVED?** Ryoei Saito, the head of the Daishowa Paper Manufacturing Co. in Japan, shocked the art world several months ago when he expressed the wish to have two valuable paintings, a Renoir and a van Gogh, placed in his coffin when he dies. And the prospect that he might be cremated and the paintings burned intensified the uproar.

Subsequently, he issued a statement in Tokyo saying that he did not intend to destroy the paintings. The van Gogh, Portrait of Dr. Gachet cost \$82.5 million, and the Renoir, At the Moulin de la Galette, \$78.1 million last year at Sotheby's in New York.

**LOST:** Books for Ronald Reagan's Presidential Library.

**LOST:** The dumbness is spreading, so naturally they are closing the libraries. Or at least curtailing them. As a result, many school librarians have been given their walking papers in Los Angeles County.

**LOST AND FOUND:** In one of the largest but shortest-lived art thefts on record, gunmen took 20 major paintings from the Van Gogh National Museum in Amsterdam before dawn on 14 April but inexplicably abandoned them in their getaway car 35 minutes later at a nearby railroad station. The paintings had been scratched by rough handling, but only three were in serious condition.

**FOUND:** A solution to a long-running conflict between writers and the computer industry that blocked authors' efforts to quote liberally from letters, diaries and other unpublished material. Senator Paul Simon, Democrat of Illinois, introduced a bill that he said "will provide the necessary protection that our nation's historians and biographers urgently need, while at the same time not doing unintended damage to the computer industry." It would amend the 1976 Copyright Act, which states that in some circumstances writers can make "fair use" of unpublished material.

The bill says that "the fact that a work is unpublished is an important element which tends to weigh against a finding of fair use," but adds that this alone "shall not bar a finding of fair use." The bill comes up later this year, and appears to have wide backing.

**FOUND:** Capitalism in Prague, via a magnificent antique book store, which, under Communism, Petr Meissner used to manage, but now he is the owner of the Charles Bridge Bookstore and Gallery. He started there as a delivery truck driver, working his way to loving rare books. In 1982, he became the store manager, and tired of that, he luckily got a loan from the state bank and went into business for himself. He also has formed, with a friend in London, Bohemian Ventures, as a distribution agency for badly needed scientific and technical journals from the West, as well as distributing books and magazines from the West. Indeed, he and his partner have become publishers of a promising art and culture magazine, called Um.

**SAVED:** A house, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, in a well-to-do neighborhood in Houston, has been saved by a retired architect from demise. Plans are to restore the house to about 90 percent of what it was. Built in 1955 for an insurance executive, it had been cannibalized by later owners.

**SAVED:** The Iraqi Government says it is compiling a list of its own missing antiquities and plans to send it to Interpol, but many of the Kuwaiti

treasures taken from the House of Islamic Antiquities, whose collection is widely considered of unparalleled excellence, and from the collections of Kuwait National Museum and the museum on Failaka Island have now been correctly accounted for and an inventory submitted to the U.N. pending their return.

The contents of the Iraqi National Museum in Baghdad, which housed one of the finest collections of ancient Sumerian and Mesopotamian art, were removed to the provinces for safe keeping before the start of the Persian Gulf war and the most famous pieces have all survived.

**LOST:** An ancient Greek pillar of Persian design, a 14th-century wooden door from a castle in Fez, Morocco, and an 80-foot dhow, a traditional Arab sailing craft, were burned in a fire set by occupying Iraqi troops at the Kuwait National Museum.

**FOUND AGAIN:** Ali Oseku, Albania's most celebrated set designer 18 years ago, overnight was condemned as a modernist who had fallen under the evil spell of Picasso, Chagall and, worst of all, Jackson Pollock and Salvador Dali. He was taken by Interior Ministry policemen, who put him under arrest, having committed the crime of "making propaganda for the enemy". He was ordered to burn 200 or 300 of his paintings--then after six months of investigatory arrest, he was sent to prison, under a regimen of forced labor, working in the mines. He was not allowed to paint.

But after 4 years of prison, he was released, but again condemned to manual labor at a heavily polluted city 35 miles southeast of the capital. However, he was permitted to resume artistic activities, and to hasten his rehabilitation by painting properly, he took up his brush and painted the president four meters high. After 10 years of prison, he is now painting away, but he has to "beg and borrow to get tubes of paint."

**FOUND:** 9 Impressionist paintings that were stolen from the Marmottan Museum in Paris in 1987 by five gunmen are hanging at the

museum once more, including Monet's "Impression, Soleil Levant" and other masterpieces by Monet, Renoir, Morisot. These were recovered on Corsica last December and went on display in April.

**RETRIEVED:** The buyer of three American Indian masks, sold at a Sotheby's auction in May for \$39,050 despite tribal protests that the sale was sacrilegious, told the New York Times after the sale that she plans to return them to the Indians. The newspaper identified the buyer as Elizabeth Sackler, daughter of the late Arthur M. Sackler, who was a collector of antiquities and Asian and Middle Eastern art. "The whole point of coming here was to purchase these ritual objects and return them to the Hopi and Navajo nations to whom they apparently belong," she said.

**SAVED:** A fire broke out in a museum at the Philippine presidential palace in May, gutting a souvenir shop but sparing the 2,000 pairs of shoes amassed by Imelda Marcos. The collection includes a pair of battery-powered shoes that light up for disco dancing. Ruling out sabotage, the director of the museum said the fire was apparently caused by a faulty air-conditioning unit inside a storeroom. The museum was designed to expose the extravagant lifestyle of the Marcoses.

**ASSUMED MISSING:** Ousted East German leader Erich Honecker ordered all documents, detailing the construction of the Berlin Wall separated from other classified government files, and the records are now missing. According to Friedrich Kahlenberg, head of the German Federal Archives, Honecker mandated that the records either were destroyed or hidden somewhere.

**PRESERVED:** The New Yorker magazine has deeded 500 dusty cartons of letters, manuscripts, fiction, commentary, punditry, puckishness and politesse to the New York Public Library, containing its archives from 1925 to 1980. Thus, the archives of American culture for that period is now available for researchers, who state their need to see the material. If given permission, they will be allowed

to use the material under supervision in the Rare Book and Manuscript Reading Room. There are a lot of restrictions, but it is good to know the archives are preserved, protected and available under tight rules.

## MURALS

Flash! Murals are art, according to the California Court of Appeals, which ruled that the California Art Preservation Act of 1980, which requires owners of artworks to give artists 30 days notice to remove their works before they are destroyed--applies directly to murals as a "subset" of paintings. The case concerned the since-bulldozed "Ancient Energies" mural painted in 1980 by three East Los Angeles Streetscapers members on a wall adjoining a Boyle Heights service station.

World Wall: A Vision of the Future without Fear, an evolving, 210-foot portable mural that will be seen in South Africa, Mexico, Japan and Spain (in time for the 1992 Olympics) has been executed by Judy Baca, famed Los Angeles muralist, as well as Finnish artists and a Russian artist. 7 of the 14 10 x 30-foot panels have been created by Baca. Artists from each of the countries where the murals will be shown will complete the 7 on the outside of the semicircle.

## BOOKS AS MISSILES

At least 50 police officers were called into the chamber of Taiwan's Parliament in April as furious opposition deputies hurled ashtrays, books and shoes at the Speaker, who shouted that this violence was the death sentence for democratic politics in Taiwan. Knowing how many books are ripped off in Taiwan, which does not honor the copyright law, throwing books around wasn't a bad way of showing opposition.

## NEW TECHNOLOGIES

Kodak has developed the Photo CD in Rochester, New York, a hybrid technology of film and electronic imaging which Kodak will begin to market next year. The idea is to capture a picture on film, digitize it with a scanner and store it on a compact disk. With a disk drive, the user can

display the picture on a television screen, manipulate it on a computer, merge it with documents or print it out on a digital color printer. Only around 1995 will digital images reach the richness of a conventional color print. But most of the innovative work is in Tokyo where high-quality electronic imaging is critical for making high-definition TV a success. Kodak still thinks film is the best way to collect images.

In the autumn, Kodak will bring out a high-performance scanner that can read paper documents into computers and store them electronically-faithfully reproducing color images.

## NEW MUSEUMS

A new Acropolis Museum will be built in Athens, almost 80 times larger than the present museum, to be designed by Manfredi Nicoletti and Lucio Passarelli of Rome. The new museum, to be built at the foot of the Acropolis, will house a full-scale model of the Parthenon. No sign of Great Britain repatriating the Elgin marbles, but the question will certainly be reopened once the new museum is opened.

A new Museum of Contemporary Art will be opened in Moscow, housed in Catherine the Great's unfinished palace at Tsaritsyno on the southernmost edge of Moscow. Included will be the collection of Soviet avant-garde art from 1960 on. There are already 213 works by artists such as Kabakov, Komar and Melamid, Orlov, Kosolapov and most of the younger members of the previously unofficial Soviet avant-garde. There is also a small but representative collection of Western avant-garde work, donated by artists. Curator is Andrei Erofeev as chief curator.

On May 10, a new museum of contemporary art opened in San German, Puerto Rico, a small town near the city of Mayaguez, about two hours outside San Juan. Operated by the Fundacion San German, a non-profit arts organization chartered in 1990 by American freelance curator Diego Cortez.

The opening show features the Peppers, a husband-and-wife con-

ceptual art team from the Soviet Union, who has been producing art in situ since March. Future shows include work by Francesco Clemente, Alighiero Boetti and Mario Merz, Ben Vautier, Richard Prince and Cady Noland.

Architect Josef Paul Kelihues has been selected to design the new building and sculpture garden for Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA), situated between the historic Water Tower and Lake Michigan on Chicago Avenue. Scheduled to open in 1995, the museum, projected to be almost four times the size of the current facility, will be created by the Berlin architect, who has attracted international attention for the serene beauty and elegance evidenced in his several art and history museums in Germany.

The Irish Museum of Modern Art is at the Royal Hospital Kilmainham in Dublin.

The Museum fur Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt, opened on 7 June, designed by Hans Hollein. Opening show includes small exhibitions of work by Joseph Beuys, On Kawara, Roy Lichtenstein, and the Bechers.

Watari-um (The Watari Museum of Contemporary Art) by Mario Botta--after five years in process--premiered with Wolfgang Laib, Cy Twombly, Michel Verjix as well as a show of Botta in December 1990. The museum is at 3-7-6 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo.

The Barnes Foundation's recent decision to publish its acclaimed art collection for the first time in full color has been greeted with great joy by the art world. Alfred A. Knopf has finally broken the Barnes Foundation's ban against color reproductions, which will not only make the collection available to a broad audience, but signals a new resolve to raise funds for a financially strapped institution whose directors had threatened to liquidate part of the collection to pay operating expenses. The Barnes Foundation in Merion, Pa. is widely considered one of the best private collections to have been assembled in the 20th century,

amassed by Dr. Albert C. Barnes, a Philadelphia physician and patent-drug manufacturer who died in 1951.

The Museum of Cartoon Art, founded in 1979, featuring original cartoons by artists such as Chester Gould (Dick Tracy) and Hal Foster (Prince Valiant) is moving from Rye Brook, New York to Boca Raton, Florida.

## PERIODICALS, NEW AND REBORN

Small Press has been taken over by Jennifer Moyer of Moyer Bell Publishers and is now published quarterly. Emphasis is on independent publishing, although the emphasis is still on "small press" publishing. It seems, however, to have an open door for suggestions and expansion, so read and keep us posted. We still like the seasonal announcements which are amazingly comprehensive and fun to read, since another world is publishing books out there and this magazine does let you know who they are. Send \$29.00 a year to Small Press, 141 Tompkins Ave., Pleasantville, NY 10570.

Competitions, Vol. 1, Winter 1991, is a new quarterly journal dealing with the built and unbuilt environment, published Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall, by The Competition Project, Inc., Louisville, KY. Nice design, although a bit gray (which is en vogue) with project specs, competition facts, histories, domestic and international, etc. \$28.00 per year for architectural collections.

The Art Newspaper, the first newspaper in the world dedicated to art, which describes itself as "not another art magazine but a newspaper like the Times or Le Monde, giving a global vision of the art world and its news" is the International Edition of the Italian Il Giornale dell'Arte, founded in 1983.

The newspaper is edited by A.G. Somers Cocks and is published in English monthly, except for August and September. The newspaper, oversized, comprises three separate sections: the main newspaper, the Art Market section and the magazine

Vernissage, devoted to a different theme each issue. It is like the Sunday magazine supplement of a normal newspaper. Published by Umberto Allemandi & Co., Freefone 1-800-363-1310. \$40.00.

Contemporanea has ended publication. The managing editor is negotiating to find a buyer.

Artscribe has been bought by Hali Publications, and will go from 64 pages to 200 pages. The new editor is Marjorie Allthorpe-Guyton.

New Art Examiner has canceled its summer issue while reorganizing administratively. Its headquarters will revert to Chicago. Howard-Yana Shapiro is acting publisher.

P-Form, published quarterly by Randolph Street Gallery in Chicago, explores the many variations and permutations of performance art, including fiction and poetry readings, cabarets, video, experimental theater and installations. There have also been theme issues, a calendar of events, a survey of performance spaces, and original work by guest artists. Now in its fifth year, P-Form is available for \$10 for four issues for individuals, \$15 for four issues for institutions (checks payable to Randolph Street Gallery). Current projects include dialogs with Eleanor Antin and Paul M. Graves, and a special issue on drag performance. Write to Randolph Street Gallery, 756 N. Milwaukee, Chicago, IL 60622.

The Rubber Fanzine - II will rise again, taken over by A Classic Pair, in the autumn of 1991. The first issue will be dedicated to the veteran rubber stamp artists whose works appeared in the page of the original TRF.

## MURALS

The Mural Conservancy of Los Angeles was formed to help maintain, protect and comment murals and other public art in the greater Los Angeles area. \$25.00 per year which includes a newsletter from MCLA, P.O. Box 86244, Los Angeles, CA 90086.

An Anamorphic Mural by Antonio Peticov has recently been documented, having been completed in 1990 in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Oswald de Andrade had a fundamental role in shaping the Brazilian culture of his time. To commemorate the centennial of his birth in 1990, Antonio Peticov was invited to install a mural in his honor in one of the principal Metro stations. Peticov found a corridor which was rarely used by pedestrians in the main Republica Station, but was always seen from a sharp diagonal. To be sure, de Andrade had created the Anthropophagic Manifesto. In 1932 Oswald published a highly controversial newspaper called O Homem do Povo (The Common People's Man). It lasted only a few weeks but in every one of its eight issues, there appeared an advertisement for a local brand of coffee called Caffe Paravent, featuring a young couple that could easily be associated with Oswald. Then, stretching the couple into a ratio of 1 to 3, these two faces, painted on square ceramic tiles, occupied the whole extension of the 16.4 meter long mural.

Included is a peeled trunk from the tree that gave Brazil its name - Paul Brasil--as well as being the theme of Oswald's first important work, published in 1918. Other themes came from a book in which Oswald's bohemian friends used to write verses, sketch, or paste newspaper clippings. A mysterious bird was taken as a model for the ceramic tiles, filling the lower part of the mural.

In addition, Brazil had, at the time of its discovery in 1500, a very large Indian nation called Tupu. The lives of these people were completely destroyed before the end of the XVIII century, but Oswald believed that it was important to acknowledge and respect the influence of their culture on Brazilian life. To this end, Oswald appropriated Shakespeare's question to form the statement:

Tupu or not Tupu. I do not know of any other Anamorphic mural, one that requires a mirror to put everything into focus, even to honor an anthropologist. About 40 people worked on this project, but it is installed in October 1990.

## SOVIET ART

Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ. became a major repository of Soviet art recently with two donations valued at \$18.5 million. Soviet expert Norton T. Dodge and his wife Nancy gave the university their \$15-million collection of 5,000 nonconformist works from 1956-1986. The other gift is the George Riabov collection, a \$3.5 million cache including 1,000 artworks from the 15th century to the present and an 8,000 volume library.

## BOOKS LOST, THIEF FOUND

Kathleen Wilkerson, the University of Pennsylvania's Van Pelt Library's "most trusted employee" was sentenced to seven years' psychiatric probation 31 January for the theft of some \$1.8 million in rare books and documents from the Van Pelt Library. A former part-time assistant at the library, Wilkerson was also instructed to pay \$45,860 in restitution and to cooperate with authorities in locating any other rare books found to be missing from Penn's collection. During eight years of employment there, she had escaped detection by altering records, and was ultimately caught when a Baltimore book dealer browsing in a Philadelphia shop grew suspicious over seeing a rare edition of Henry V available for purchase there.

Stephen Blumberg, 42, an odd man who "wears his underwear a long time" was found guilty at the end of January in Des Moines, Iowa in the theft of millions of dollars of rare books from libraries and museum. He possessed 21,000 books stolen from libraries and museums in 45 states and Canada. He had pleaded innocent by reason of insanity to all four charges of felony.

## VIDEO

Drift Distribution, 83 Warren St., #5, New York, NY 10007-1057 is a new distributor of films and video. Write them for their interesting catalog.

## SOME INTERESTING EXHIBITIONS

A Million Menus: Chinese Takeout Food in America was on view at Franklin Furnace in New York City until 16 March. The show, coinciding with celebrations of New Year of the Ram, featured more than 5,000 different takeout menus from all 50 states. Appealing to friends, Spiller gathered menus some as early as 1916. He did it because he loves food, people and Chinese food and people. It must have made viewers hungry for Chinatown a short walk away.

Ecart, Geneve, curated by John M. Armleder, including work by General Idea, Allan McCollum, Olivier Mosset, Cady Noland, Sylvie Fleury and more was held at Galerie van Gelder. Armleder has resurrected Ecart. Artist, book connoisseur, publisher, bookstore owner and friend of Umbrella has succeeded recently mostly as an artist, but is now curating shows under his old "logo".

Artists Sketchbooks, an exhibition at Matthew Marks Gallery through 4 May in New York City exhibited 24 sketchbooks from Cy Twombly, Louise Bourgeois, Myron Stout, Robert Ryman, Jasper Johns, Julian Schnabel, Lucian Freud, Ellsworth Kelly, Brice Marden, Jackson Pollock, Richard Serra, Lawrence Weiner and Terry Winters, among others. Revelations into working methods and thought processes abound, the only drawback being that one could not thumb through the books at will.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Harry Lunn, photo dealer, along with three other dealers, recently paid \$780,000 for a book of 160 salt prints by a little-known 19th-century Frenchman named Felix Reynard. This was a record price for any photographic item sold at auction. Teynard (1817-1892), a civil engineer, made pictures as a hobby during a stay in Egypt.

According to the New York Times, new directions in photography have been manifest recently,

appropriationists are now looking for other ways of using photography in art. Especially evident is a renewed fascination among contemporary artists with photograms. For example, Joan Fontcuberta from Spain.

## CENSORSHIP

A painting of five world leaders shown nude was pulled from a junior college faculty exhibit in Annapolis, MD after complaints from the public. Artist Josef Schuetzenhoefer, a part-time professor, replaced the life-size painting with a landscape the day before the show opened recently. The 8-foot oil painting, "Capitalism is Dead," was meant as political commentary, he said. Included were Thatcher, Walesa, Glemp, Kohl, and the late millionaire-publisher Malcolm Forbes who were all shown standing on a car with missing wheels.

## PUBLIC CAR ART

Carhenge, Jim Reinders' monumental re-creation of England's most famous druidic site, using gray-painted automobiles in place of rough-hewn boulders, is on U.S. 385 near Alliance, NE, 260 miles northeast of Denver and about 5,500 miles west of the Salisbury Plain. 33 automobiles were used to correspond approximately in size to each of the megaliths at Stonehenge. A geologist now living in Houston, he created Carhenge on his farm. Almost destined for destruction by officials for violating land-use codes, a booster group, the Friends of Carhenge, saved it. On the summer solstice, 22 June, this year the Friends will have a picnic, offer lectures on Stonehenge and light a druidic bonfire. Anyone interested in "art, history, whimsy or junk", contact Paul E. Phaneuf, head of the Friends group, at 620 West 16th St., Alliance, NE 69301. (308)762-4954.

## BOOK BUNGLER

Understanding the subtle nuances and shifts in Japanese politics, industry and society is difficult in the best of times. Now with U.S.-Japan relations a bit edgy, keeping abreast of a changing Japan is more crucial than ever. Japanese-language books

and periodicals provide valuable insight into Japan. Yet the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission chooses now, of all times, to eliminate a book-buying program for Japanese libraries at major American universities-- millions of dollars a year to buy Japanese books and periodicals for 13 top American universities. The money came from a \$36-million trust fund established when the U.S. returned Okinawa to Japan. The money is used to promote better understanding between Japan and America. The commission, facing financial pressures, is sacrificing the entire book program in order to fund "policy-oriented research" on Japan and to establish a data base of existing Japanese language libraries in the United States. Hope is that funding will be restored as soon as possible, but we're waiting.

## COPYRIGHT LIMITS

The Supreme Court narrowed the reach of copyright protection by ruling that directories, computer data bases and other compilations of facts may be copied and republished unless they display "some minimum degree of creativity."

"Raw facts may be copied at will," said the court. Moreover, authors and publishers are not protected simply because they have compiled information through the "sweat of the brow." So now you have to be "original" in the selection and arrangement of the factual material, not just show industriousness of the efforts to develop the information." Can you imagine how "creative" reference tools can now become? We'll have illuminated manuscripts instead of data bases just to avoid being ripped off. Who knows? It may start a new phase of artists' books!



# Great Umbrella!



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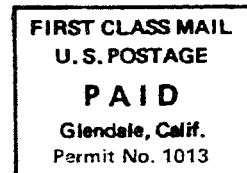
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