

ARTISTS' BOOKS: news and reviews

NEWS

Money for Food Press has a new catalog. Write to 486 Greenwich St., New York, NY 10013.

Nigel Greenwood Inc. has issued List 21 for April 1980 with a well-rounded supply of books, catalogs, photography and printing, group catalogs and magazines. This pioneer keeps producing quality catalogs of artists' books and publications for sale. Write to 41 Sloane Gardens, London SW1W 8EB.

The Book Bus has a new 1980 Catalog. Available from 31 Prince St., Rochester, NY 14607.

The Reading Room: An Exhibition of Artists' Books held at Nexus Gallery, 17 March - 28 May, was an invitational show, curated by Anne Sue Hirshorn. During the course of the exhibition, Jacki Apple was one of a group of speakers who gave lectures. The exhibition was documented with a brochure and list of artists. The launching of Synapse, a Visual Art Press, was also manifested in this exhibition with the appearance of their first two books, *Ruffled Passions* and *Rope Trick*. The directors of Synapse are Suzanne Horvitz and Sandra Lerner, Philadelphia.

Another Artists' Book Show was *Il' Chiodo Mancante* (The Missing Nail) at Multimedia, Via Aleardi 11, Brescia, Italy in December 1979. Curated by Romana Loda, it was accompanied by a poster-brochure. 72 book artists from all over the world were in the exhibition.

Books by Artists, an exhibition of over 60 publications, begins touring North America in the fall of 1980. The exhibition includes works by Art & Language, Joseph Beuys, Marcel Broodthaers, Francesco Clemente, Robert Cummings, Roth, Ruscha, Snow, Staeck, etc.

The exhibition is scheduled to open at the Metropolitan Library in Toronto, November 18, 1980 and is travelling to the Winnipeg Art Gallery, the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, and the Norman MacKenzie Gallery in Regina.

Coinciding with the exhibition will be the publication of *Books by Artists*, a 148-page volume which includes critical essays, a reprint of "Book as Artwork" by Germano Celant, and a detailed guide to the exhibition, all fully illustrated and in French and English. The exhibition is sponsored by Art Metropole, 217 Richmond St. West, Toronto, Canada M5V 1W2.

Buchobjekte was a major book-object exhibition at the University of Freiburg from 13 June through 10 July. Organized by a group of graduate students in art history, the exhibition was thoroughly researched and documented in a catalog which (although only in German) explains more about the making of books than about the making of book-objects. Included in the exhibition were Dieter Roth, Hubertus, Axel Heibel, Regula Huegli, Mirella Bentivoglio, Raymond Waydelich, Wolf Vostell, Warja Lavater-Honegger, and many many more. exhibition catalog costs 12 DM and is available from Dr. Jorg Meyer zur Capellen, Albert Ludwigs Universitat,

Kunstgeschichtliches Institut, Wethmannplatz 3 (KG III) D-7800, West Germany.

Richard Minsky has recently published a livre de luxe called *Minsky in London*, which was on exhibit at the Center for Book Arts from 19 June through 2 July. The book is designed, printed and bound by Minsky in an edition of 25 copies, including letters from Britons asked to describe Minsky in any terms they saw fit. Each copy has photos printed from the original negatives and costs \$1200.00.

REVIEWS

Ten to One by Steve Wheatley, Caligula Books. This is a 28-page, palm of the hand-sized book exploring the collective identity of the numbers ten to one by means of their typography and appropriately descriptive bon mots. It reveals the wealth of hidden imagery that awaits release from the creative multiplication of numbers. The book follows the tradition of 'rounds' or folk songs which was the idea of number and possession, e.g. *A Partridge in a Pear Tree*. \$3.00

Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons' circa 1979* by Steve Wheatley, Caligula Books. This is a double-folded card. Taking the great composer's master work into the context of the modern supermarket, an estimable attempt to bring the structures of culture to the people. \$1.50

Stamps of Many Lands by Steve Wheatley, Brian Lane Publications. Sixteen postage stamps of various countries to embarrass their respective governments, produced in the alternative forms of a stamp album. First day covers and an approvals wallet. The world of advertising moves in on the designing of postage stamps and makes its usual appalling and insensitive mess of the job. Send these through the post and let your friends marvel at the embarrassment of the postman! \$12.00

Three Cheers! a brief ballet, choreographed by Steve Wheatley, Brian Lane Publications. A meticulously observed piece of modern dance to be performed during particularly boring public recitals, which combines good manners and the proper public enthusiasm with a satisfying response. \$3.00

Fried Fish, by Steve Wheatley, Caligula Books. A bitter-sweet modern fairytale of a pastoral scene of peaceful bliss shattered by the inevitable forces of twentieth-century destruction where only the fish survive. A political and moral tale for our age. \$2.50

Salley Mavor Pins, what seemingly was supposed to be a catalog for advertising soft-sculpture pins, has become a well-designed artist's book incorporating the soft sculpture pins as a theme. The book is a collaboration among three women who live a fair distance from each other. Mavor designed the pins, one did the graphics and illustrations, and the other handled production and printing. This is an art object, bound in different materials, which includes a price list for

the soft-sculpture pins of grapes, carrots, bananas, car, eggplant, hearts, sheep, pig, etc. but also shows the craftsmanship of the artists who have devised this fan-fold book hand-colored and a delight to touch, view and absorb. \$5.00

Holdup by Keith Godard and Emmett Williams is a hilarious book. Both authors discovered they had been collecting pictures of thumbs of friends and famous people for years, and now they have combined these thumbs in a beautifully designed book, in which the thumbs converse. Published by Works in New York City (Keith Godard's design studio and publishing house), the book is a tour de force of sophisticated humor and elegant put-on. \$8.00

Daglicht no. 4 in an edition of 100 is a remarkable tour de force of fine printing, using all the techniques available from silkscreen to collage and offset—a hand-made journal/book which is the collaboration of several artists. Full-size, beautifully printed, with lots of surprises on each page, *Daglicht* costs \$15.00, printed in Eindhoven, Holland, and available from Printed Matter.

Diana's Second Almanac features visual-verbal collaborations, including World Imitation Products' Voodoo Doll, The Hind of the Further by Jaimy Gordon, and other literary efforts of great note. Well printed and designed, this costs \$4.95. Designed by Tom Ahern.

Augusto Concato has a new book, *Back Home Again*, a nostalgic piece after a return home from a trip to New York, Montreal, and back in Milano, one feels a sense of performance, memory, and dream all mingled in this bilingual, extraordinarily designed book which has photo corners on several pages in which there are sometimes placed postcards, reminiscences, nostalgia pieces of this daydream trip. \$14.00 and a bargain!

Revenge by Bruce Bebb is an inexpensive booklet with rules for each day, such as "Start off each day with a broken promise..." or "Do not meditate." In context, each suggestion becomes more hilarious. 50 cents.

Janice Snyder in *Of Sentences in General* knows what the printing press can do and illustrates her bold-type phrases with old hand-signal illustrations from a classical text. \$5.00

Piano Album: Short Piano Pieces, 1962-1984 is the first book-format edition of piano compositions by the founder of the Something Else Press. Known as a performance poet and artist, Higgins' creative life really began with music, and music is treated with wild illustrations, rubber stamps, and beautifully silkscreening. \$10.00 from your local artists' bookshop or from Bookslinger.

Animations: A Trilogy for Mabou Mines: The Red Horse, the B. Beaver, the Shaggy Dog by Lee Breuer is Performance Art Journal Publication, which includes the text of the three performance pieces, dealing with animals, ghosts, and devils. Performed from 1968 - 78 by Mabou Mines, the collaboration of artists, sculptors and new musicians makes this book even more important as documentation of performance, of Mabou Mines and of the projected emotions of Lee Breuer himself. \$7.95

Fault Publications has three innovative chapbooks: *Benthos (Lab Partners Part 2)* shows line drawings and prose by Bruce Hutchinson in a ghoulish, surrealistic strong vernacular (\$2.25), while *Brother Spencer Goes to Hell, a Terrifying Novel* by Che Wax is a visual novel using collage method and offset and is hilarious.(\$2.25) as well as *Fault 14 (In Search for a perform poem)* with multi-media contributions from artists and visual poets from all over the U.S., with 50 conceptions of the perfect poem. \$2.00 from Fault Publications, 33513 Sixth St., Union City, CA 94587.

Power Poem by Ruth Laxson, printed in an edition of 100 on recycled paper, shows how the artist's imagery is generated from all forms of human communication, such as handwriting, music, computer patterns, and the printed page. This lexicon of markings has taken the form of calendar or chart-like drawings and along the way an intense need for the inclusion of real narrative has developed. The use of the word "power" in all its manifestations leads to a deep philosophical conclusion. A very interesting book at \$4.00.

Sol Lewitt's *Sunrise & Sunset at Praiano*, a joint publication by Rizzoli and Multiples is another in a growing series, but this time in color, with four sequential photos on each page. Thus we have 108 color photographs on 36 pages of the changing skies of Praiano. Beautifully printed. \$10.95

Athena Tacha has produced two more in a series of little pamphlet-books about her life, her activities, her feelings. *My Fears* and *Little Pleasures* are another two revealing, autobiographical books from this Oberlin, Ohio sculptor-teacher.

Rods, Cones, Spheres by Jonathan Rosen is a mystical trip through graphite, for these drawings of geometrical shapes take on a life of their own. A finely produced, meticulously handled book, we know you'll be surprised at the price of \$8.00.

Void Distributors are actually publishers and their latest is *Livre de Terre no. 5* by Hetty Huisman, a bi-lingual project, which concerns the perspective of ceramics in the year 1970, based upon the European ceramic tradition and relating to the gathering of ceramicists in Carbondale, Illinois to share the joy of unfired clay and pre-ceramic existence. Beautifully produced in 60 pages on oxford cream paper, the edition of 300 copies is a tribution to fine production by this prolific publishing house. \$20.00

Pages from a Child's Documentary is a collaborative effort between father and daughter—the father observing and seeing lines of connection, the daughter literally being the author of the action and reason for the book; the father seeing connections and sequence of movement from page to page, the author executing action and commenting upon it. A delightful, charming book well produced as usual from NFS Press in San Francisco, and written by Kesa (and her father Lew Thomas). \$7.95

D'Art Objects by Mary Manusosos and John A. Chakeres is truly a collaboration of great note. This beautifully printed book in four colors explores four-color manipulation of

polaroid prints with interconnections, lines of added paint, objects and enhancement making this book a joy. The format lends itself to enjoyment as well, being wider like an envelope than long. Published by Nuance Press in Columbus, Ohio and available almost everywhere in Rochester at the Book Bus or at Artworks.

Die Leute (The People) by Warja Lavater-Honegger is a beautifully produced little book done by rubber stamping little circles to represent people in varying situations as they tour on holiday. The symbols of each century in art history in the museum, or being in the cafeteria of the museum or at the beach, in the casino, nightclub, bar, experimental theater, poetry reading, Vivaldi concert, break, Pop festival, boxing match, and other typical life situations. A philosophical tome without words. Published in Switzerland and available at Artworks, \$15.00

La Capra by Geoffrey Hendricks is a collaboration between Edizioni Morra & Printed Editions. This book documents Hendricks' 1976 performance in Naples with scores, journal text, photographs, and the dreams he had that night. English and Italian. 80 pages and 16 pages of illustration. \$6.00

Street Editions has brought out two books: *Consider Yourself Lucky* by Lyn Mandelbaum emphasizes text and meaning, the importance of words which give meaning to the visual images. \$6.00

Lucio Pozzi: Hender is a composite of photographs and fragments derived from various sources. Pozzi has manipulated the fragments to form a written collage, a story both mysterious and poetic, evocative and haunting. \$6.00 There is a special hand-colored edition for \$100. Street Editions is a new non-profit publishing house established by a group of artists and writers interested in producing books as works of art. More about them in future issues of *Collation*.

GAAG: The Guerrilla Art Action Group approaches specific social issues with incredible creativity and poignancy. This book is a primary text for aesthetic social action and has been documented beautifully by Jan Van Raay. The book covers 1969 - 1976 and is lovingly put together with words and pictures to give any artist a sociology lesson. Here is active aesthetic politics at its best! \$12.50 and printed by Printed Matter.

Elsa Stansfield and Madelon Hooykaas have produced *Split Seconds*, a remarkable rubber-stamp book which can be flipped one way or the other to show a rectangle split apart on the pages or put back together. A Dutch project of great aesthetic sensitivity. \$4.00. The deluxe issue includes an audio-cassette which is cleverly inserted into a box, which becomes the added pages of the book, so that the book is thicker, to house the cassette. The sounds are split seconds of breaking apart. \$15.00

Prototype Man, a bulletin by Suzanne Winterberger, is a little booklet (quite mailable since the back cover looks like a postcard), indicating with tongue in cheek the virtues of this new symbol of understanding, modern-

day man. Captioned photographs take the idea even further. \$3.50

Ransacked by Nancy Holt is a new publication from Printed Matter and Lapp Princess Press, which documents the last years of Aunt Ethel, the author's aunt, and the events which led to the ransacking of the house in which she lived by a so-called "friend." The interconnection of the dying of the aunt and the falling apart of the house are a fact for the author and for the reader.

Hoax Post, an envelope of artists' postage stamps designed by Franz Immoos was published in Holland. Each page is numbered. Five different sheets of stamps in an envelope for \$20.00.

Arthur Taussig, the photographer, has produced a portfolio of rubber stamp and offset works called *A Xerobook*, and the little captions, done like bubbles in cartoons, make the page vital and funny as well. Edition of 100. \$10.00

Seeing Egypt by Jim Snitzer is a visual-verbal tour de force, with reality/illusion playing games with the reader/spectator. One never knows whether the photographs are real or fantastic, but the book is wonderful! \$8.50

The Fluxus artist, Ay-O has created a remarkable *Catalogue Raisonne, 1954-1979* which is actually an autobiographical artist's book, in which he has a running commentary on his own life and times as well as that of his artwork. We find that the "Rainbow Master" in a warm, personal manner tells how he created nearly all of the 400 color pictures in the book. Not only do we see Ay-O, the Fluxus artist, but we find him recounting the social and intellectual fervor of the Fluxus movement, with happenings and performances. \$60.00 with 392 color plates, available from Hank Baum Gallery, 2140 Bush St., San Francisco, CA 94115.

Van Gogh as Mouse, One Ear Missing is a hilarious book by Gary Martin, in which even numbers are replaced by symbols of the Sun and Planets. Little vignettes printed in yellow and black make each page vital and funny at the same time. Just think if every object has latitude and longitude lines and one can find the Coke bottle's equator. At any rate, \$4.50 for a joyful ride through the universe.

LATE NEWS

CAPS (Creative Artists Public Service) in New York City inaugurated an exhibition, entitled *Artists Books - A Selection from the CAPS Visual Arts Referral Service*, held at the Donnell Library from 2 May through 2 June 1980. Artists included in the show have either received CAPS fellowships or have been referred by panels in their respective fields during the judging procedure.

A.I.R., 97 Wooster, New York, NY 10012 featured an exhibition of women artists' books entitled, *Speaking Volumes: Women Artists' Books*, curated by Lucy Lippard. Write to them for a copy of the catalog.