

MAIL ART EXHIBITIONS & COMPETITIONS

NEWS

Lon Spiegelman is teaching a Mail-Art class at Otis/Parsons in Los Angeles, as an extension course on Saturdays. This course is designed as a guide to the world of correspondence art, an alternative to the formal art establishment. The course will cover upcoming mail art shows and publications, postal regulations, demographic concentrations of mail artists, mail-art concepts/philosophies, and various printing techniques.

▪ Michael Duquette of Toronto writes that in the course of putting together an exhibition of mail art at a local gallery, he has had his correspondence stopped by members of the post office management and Security and Investigations. The artist had applied to the Canada Council for a project cost grant to stage the mail art exhibition. Part of the requirements was to submit examples of work by the artist. Seeing that the nature of the project was mail art, it was deemed necessary to mail support as actual pieces of mail art rather than slides. The first two support pieces went through the post office with no trouble, but the third one was a color Xerox reproduction of a postcard sent to Italy for the Marginal Art exhibition held in the summer of 1980. This card was approximately 16 x 20 inches and it was mailed on 30 July 1980 to the Canada Council. He found out through the underground that the card reappeared and was approved only six days later, as checked out.

Now, all sorts of questions have come into play because of the Post Office and mail-art, e.g., the legal implications, state agencies controlling the arts and culture of Canada, the questioning of the morals of a Canadian artist, etc. For further information, you can write to Michael Duquette, 30 Athletic Ave., Toronto, Ont., Canada M4L 1W6.

▪ Randy Harelson, author of *Amazing Days*, a book published by Workman Publishing, which introduces kids to the great variety of international, national, religious, and ethnic celebrations through the calendar year, is now planning to publish *S.W.A.K.: The Kids' Book of Fun Through the Mail*, which will serve as a clear and simple guide to the use of the mails not by theory, but by practice. Besides postal regulations and sample letter forms, Harelson, who is a subscriber to *Umbrella*, wants to offer children skills for communicating with people throughout this country and the world, with specific opportunities for discovering the fun of communication, pen pals, postcard collecting, and especially mail art.

Randy would like mail artists to participate by sending home-made 3½ x 5½ postcards for possible publication as examples of mail art and card design. There will be sections on birthdays, Valentines, Halloween, Christmas and Chanukah, and general communication. Cards chosen will be reproduced actual-size or smaller in black and white, line or half-tone. There is the possibility of a show. No returns. Artists are reminded that the primary purpose of the cards is to stimulate ideas and show methods of making mail art to children.

S.W.A.K. goes to press early in 1981 so any information or artwork you can provide by **1 January 1981** will be greatly appreciated. Send information and cards to Randy Harelson, Makepeace Studio, 63 Adams Point Road, Barrington, RI 02806.

▪ Michael Mollett and Lon Spiegelman were the authors of an article, entitled "Mail Art Keeps Me Sane" in the August-September 1980 issue of *The Los Angeles Monitor*.

COMPETITIONS & EXHIBITIONS

Commonpress Deadlines:

35. **Special Places:** Heinz Schulze, 2405 Nueces, Austin, Texas 78705 USA. Black and White, 20 x 20 cms. **Deadline:** 1 October 1980.
36. **Idea and Communication:** Gunther Ruch, 115 Route de Peney, Switzerland. **Deadline:** 15 September 1980. For details, contact the editor.
37. **Save the Small Things:** Mp. Anker, 1071 Berlin, Wichertstr. 68/Lk. Stfl. GDR/RDA. Black and White, 10.5 x 7.5 cms. **Deadline:** 31 Dec.1980
39. **Homosexuality.** Editor: Christoph Mach Art. **Deadline:** 31 January 1981. Postcard, black and white. Exhibition at the Kommunkations-Centrum Ruhr in Dortmund, February or March 1981. Send to Christoph Mach Art, Kunstproduktion, Wiesenstr. 27, 5810 Witten 1, West Germany.
42. **Postal Regulations:** Michael Duquette, 30 Athletic Ave., Toronto, Ont., Canada M4L 1W6. For details, contact the editor. **Deadline:** 31 December 1980.

AUGUST DEADLINES

Italian Spring Festival/Mail Art '80. Invitations went out from c.d.o. in Parma, Italy to send mail-art to Perth, Australia to the Italian Consulate for the Italian Spring Festival/Mail-Art'80 exhibition. Each participant will receive a printed document about the exhibition from the Italian Consulate in South Perth. The exhibition will last through October 1980.

The Post Card. This is the first exhibition in Portugal of the Postcard (letters, postcards, etc.) organized by Grupo Puzzle during the International Week of Contemporary Art at the Vila do Conde. The exhibition will be documented in the catalog-review of *Semaine*. Organizers were members of the Grupo Puzzle, Albuquerque Mendes, Armando Azevedo and Joao Dixo, Rua Aires d'Ornelas 33-4. 4 000 - Porto, Portugal. The exhibition was from 15 - 22 August.

SEPTEMBER DEADLINES

Underground art publications. Ricerche Inter/Media, C.P. 236, 44100 Ferrara, Italy is organizing an exhibition of underground magazines, experimental poetry, visual experimentation, mail art, published periodically or irregularly, to focus on the transmission of messages. The exhibition will take place during September and October in Ferrara in the bookshop, Spazio Libri. **Deadline:** 30 September 1980. A list of the magazines invited and documented will be published in the next publication of the organization.

The Dead Refrigerated Visual Display Mail Art Show and Contest. October 1980. Enter by emptying all dead or dying items from the refrigerator, arrange them creatively or according to your taste, and take a photo, sending it to Shima Gallery, San Joaquin Delta College, c/o Elroy Pie, 2035 W. Acacia, Stockton, CA 95203. Judge will be Raw Tuna. T-Shirts and free donkey rides will be prizes. No deadline indicated, but the exhibition is during the month of October 1980.

Tourism. A show on travel. International Mail Art Show, 5 October - 2 November. No returns. **Deadline:** 20 September. Send entries and self-addressed stamped envelope for catalog to Tourism, Heller Gallery, 304 Eshleman Hall, U.C. Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 94720.

Artists Report. Stuttgart, West Germany. Centers of the Mail-Art-Network. Send for questionnaire to Angelika Schmidt, c/o Kunstlerhaus, Reuchlinstrasse 4 b, West Germany. Statements, pictures of all participating institutions and artists. Send tapes, video, films, slides, etc. **Deadline:** 30 September 1980.

OCTOBER DEADLINES

First Los Angeles Erotic Mail Art Show 1980. Theme: Erotic mail art. Maximum size: 8½ x 11 inches. To be held at Zero Zero Gallery, Hollywood, CA. **Deadline:** 25 October 1980. Show opens 1 November. Organized by Richard A. Meade, 1759½ Easterly Terrace, Los Angeles, CA 90026.

Help Teach Mail Art. **Deadline:** 13 October 1980. Media: everything. Catalog will be sent to all participants. Mail entries to Lon Spiegelman, c/o Help Show, 1556 Elevado St., Los Angeles, CA 90026, USA. No returns, no jury, no fee.

Suicide. R. Dick Trace-it of the Investigation Department is researching suicide, to parallel creation with destruction, as I. D. continues to filter through the sociological spectrum theme by theme. He is requesting any images and/or information concerning **Suicide**, to be 17.6 cm up and 14.7cm across or 7 inches up by 5 3/4 inches across to be mailed to R. Dick Trace-it, Investigation Department, P.O. Box 1495 Station A, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V6C 2P7. All will be exhibited and included in a catalog. **Deadline:** 20 October 1980.

International Art and Poetry Show in Opposition to WW III. Send drawings, color Xerox, poetry, posters, cartoons, etc. Returns only by prior arrangement. **Deadline:** 10 October 1980. Theme: International opposition to World War III, or any aspect you would like to zero in on. Show will open in October in San Francisco and travel around the U.S. Mail entries to Poster Brigade, P.O. Box 31428, San Francisco, CA 94131.

Mislaid Information, a new mail art magazine, organized by Philip & Jane. No returns. Request for submissions. Copy of issue to be sent to all contributors. Mail to Mislaid Information, 33 Benelong Rd., Cremorne 2090, Sydney, Australia. **Deadline:** 10 October. Black and white only.

The Secret Garden Architectural Design Exposition. **Deadline:** 1 October 1980. San Diego, CA, 12 - 17 October. Open. Media: Mail Art. Color montage, color Xerox, paper collage, color Xerox multimedia in fold-out 3D model on rigid base. Catalog will be published. Contact: Professor Eugene Ray, Architect, Dept. of Art, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA 92182.

The 80s. Issue no. 9. **Deadline:** 31 October. Send to Jurgen Kramer, P.O. Box 1142, D-4650 Gelsenkirchen, F. R. Germany.

NOVEMBER DEADLINES

MULTIPLICITY, an exhibition of black and white and/or color Xerox works at the Upstairs, 117 So. Trade Street, Tryon, NC 28782 USA. **Deadline:** 6 November 1980. No returns, catalog to all participants.

Scree Magazine. **Deadline extension:** 16 November 1980. Send black and white photographs, poetry, fiction, articles, and art relevant to Photography and Poetry/Language. All material should be sent to Scree, Photography Issue, Duck Down, P.O. Box 1047, Fallon, NV 89406.

LATER OR NO DEADLINES

Mail Art Exhibition, Kommunikations-Centrum Ruhr. February or March 1981. Theme: Homosexuality. Format: postcards, black and white. **Deadline:** 31 January 1981. All entries will be accepted, no returns. This will form the contents of Commonpress no. 39. Each participant will receive an issue of the magazine. Send to Christoph Mach Art, Kunstproduktion, Wiesenstr. 27, 5810 Witten 1, West Germany.

The Des Moines Festival of the Avant-Garde announces the formation of **The Performance Bank**. If you send a performance proposal, we can do here cheaply with a few people, it will be published in *The Biennial Report of the Performance Bank (appearing at the end of 1982)*. It may not, however, be performed. If you send a performance proposal and furnish your own documentation, it will be published in the Report and you will get a copy free. 12 proposals will be selected and performed and documented by Fred Truck. These artists will receive the Report plus forms of documentation the performance generates itself. Send proposal to The Performance Bank, 4225 University, Des Moines, IA 50311. **Deadline:** 21 June 1982.

Dada-Glondon 1982. **The Second (Slow) International Biennial of No'airmail Art 1982.** Theme: Half-time score: Miserabilism 2 - Surrealism 1. Please start mailing your material now. Early receipts will be used to alter the score. Inform others. Keep mailing through 1981. You will be kept informed of score. Final **Deadline:** 31 May 1982. No returns, but grand catalog. This second biennial is being organized by K. S. Arp and Onion Jack of the International Cearch Currealism Centre Project. All material will be exhibited in this Great Pool Exhibition of 1851 at Crystal Palace, or at a football or dog stadium, or at an Artlink art gallery. Mail to K. S. Arp (ICCCP) 5 Nursery Close, Sevenoaks, Kent TN 13, England.

Postal Regulation Mail Art Show. No fees, no returns. All work will be exhibited. Send entries to Michael Duquette, 30 Athletic Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4L 1W6. **Deadline:** December 1980.

If you write to Ulli Bernhardt, Kunstlerhaus, Reuchlinstrasse 4b, Stuttgart, West Germany, he will send you a video postcard, which you will fill in, and return to him for a Video Postcard show. **Deadline:** 20 December 1980.

Why not MAKE ART? Why NOT MAKE art? Responses welcome from any source in any form. Possible Newsletter, probably exhibit. Respond to The Upstairs, 117 So. Trade St., Tryon, NC 28782. No Deadline.

Jurgen Schweinebraden, DDR 1058 Berlin, Dunckerstrasse 17 is having a mail art show with the theme of Individual - Society. etc. All cards will be exhibited, including postcards, assemblage, Xerox, prints, photos, stamps, drawings, etc. **Deadline:** 10 November 1980.

Study '79 opens its activity of international archives in the ambit of the Mail Art and of narrative with an invitation to send works for a three-fold objective of study, collection and publication. Artists of mail art (photos, collages, graphic, etc.) and writers of novels, narrations, poets. Send works to Bedeschi, Giuseppe, Via degli Sforza 14, 48022 Lugo (Ravenna) Italy. The works received, after the reproduction and recording, will be published in a double anthology, *Mail Art: Graphic and Writing*.

Please send some of your writing, either published or unpublished to Flavio Ermini, C.so Cavour 39, 37121 Verona, Italy.

Please send any and all images and articles on Nihilism, Terrorism and S/M to Jupiter-Larsen, P.O. Box 48184, Vancouver, Canada V7X 1N8.



SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT MAIL ART

Mail Art, etc. is P(a)roletarian. It is the vernacular, the dialect(ic), the slang. It smuggles in new concepts, expressions, and idioms, and subverts the meaning of the old ones. It is often unintelligible to outsiders.

—Michael Gibbs

Art must necessarily go underground—all art arrives airmail. Keep Art Flat.

—David Zack

stamp·art

VILE No. 7, STAMP-ART, produced in a limited edition of 300 copies, is a 200 page, 6 x 9" collection of rubber stamp art. Featured are the handstamped works of international artists. One copy of each book will be sent to each contributing artist. A limited edition of 25 signed and numbered books are available at \$25 each. Please send check or money order (international money order outside USA is \$27) to:

BANANA PRODUCTIONS
1183 Church St., San Francisco, CA, USA 94114

DATES TO REMEMBER

1980 Joint Conference, WAAM/WRC
29 October - 2 November, San Francisco

The Arts & Tourism: A Profitable Partnership, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
15 - 17 October 1980

New Perspectives on Dance, West Coast Conference on Dance Criticism
3 - 11 January, San Francisco
Contact San Francisco Bay Area Dance Coalition, Building C, For Mason, SF, CA 94123

NEA DEADLINES

Artists' Fellowships	15 October 1980
Services to the Field	1 December 1980
Craftsmen's Fellowships	19 December 1980
Building Arts	2 January 1981
Projects: Collaborative & Individual	2 February 1981