

NEWS & NOTES

LOST & FOUND

Found: Federal agents in Cleveland have recovered two paintings, one by Picasso and one by Monet, reported stolen in 1992 from the Brentwood (Southern California) home of Steven G. Cooperman, a now-retired ophthalmologist. Picasso's 1932 "Nude before a Mirror" and Monet's 1882 "Customs Officer's Cabin at Pourville" wrapped in cardboard in a rented storage locker were discovered by investigators. The doctor, who had his license revoked just before the paintings disappeared, was away on vacation when the paintings disappeared.

Found: Two works believed to be part of the historic Amber Room that once graced the palace of Catherine the Great have surfaced for the first time in more than 50 years. Both pieces—a stone mosaic and a lacquered wooden chest of drawers—were discovered in Germany in the hands of private owners. Experts have cited that fact that it is not a coincidence that the stone mosaic and chest have turned up just as Russia debates whether it should give Germany back works of art seized at the end of the war by Soviet soldiers. The Amber Room took 6 tons of amber to create the 129 mosaic panels that make up the coveted chamber installed in the town of Pushkin at the czars' summer palace.

Found: Police in Rome have recovered 1,273 stolen works of art worth \$4.2 million, and broken up an art theft ring that included a priest and an expert in gold leaf restoration. Most of the pieces including bronze candlesticks, paintings, furniture and religious relics were stolen from churches around the country. Among the most noteworthy pieces was a "Madonna and Child" attributed to Bartolomeo della Porta.

Found: The Victoria & Albert Museum in London has received an inventory which lists thousands of works condemned as "degenerate" by the Nazis. The two-volume directory, which was donated by the widow of an art dealer, will have great implications for studies of the war period. The 1942 inventory lists German cities and towns alphabetically and has 16,558 entries, some listing dozens of works. Volume 1 (A - G) was known from three other editions, but Volume 2 (H - Z) is the only complete inventory to have survived World War II.

Found: In early March police officials in Potsdam recovered the 1815 painting "View of a Harbor" by Caspar David Friedrich that had been stolen late last year. Another four dozen stolen art works were found along with the painting, and four men have been arrested.

Found: Several thousand paintings, drawings and watercolors which were "lost" for decades in the Government art collection in England have been discovered, including works by Walter Sickert, Paul Nash, Edward Burra, Henry Moore, John Piper and Lucian Freud. 2,300 paintings, 1,800 drawings and watercolors, 200 sculptures, 50 tapestries, 235 photographs and 8,000 historical and modern prints have been cataloged.

Found: The Villa dei Papiri, originally built by Julius Caesar's father-in-law and buried by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in A.D. 79 was revealed in the mid 18th century, when 1,800 carbonized papyrus scrolls were found. Not since 1765 was excavation continued. But now, Italian geologists and archeologists have for the first time uncovered part of the Villa dei Papiri itself, so that the site has been exposed for the first time. This is the villa that inspired the J. Paul Getty Museum in Malibu, California. But everyone is anxious to find the library where Latin texts are assumed to be located.

Found: The largest concentration of ancient shipwrecks ever found in the deep sea have been discovered off the northwest coast of Sicily. From Roman times, the artifacts include fine glassware, kitchen and household wares, fine bronze vessels, two heavy lead anchor pieces, and at least 8 different types of amphoras intended for storing wine, olive oil, fish sauce and preserved fruit.

Found & almost lost: An \$80,000 bronze sculpture designed by Arnaldo Pomodoro, owned by the Miami taxpayers, was recently discovered in a Miami building bought by Dade County for \$1.00. Using pneumatic drills, chipping hammers, thick chains, and a stout forklift and crane, crews ripped out the 30-ton monolith and chunks of its foundation, making way for more office space. With only 30 minutes' notice, a flatbed truck pulled up to Miami's new administration building and a crane plipped the sculpture with scattered dents and dings onto an open court near the parking garage, now stuck to its original concrete foundation. It was housed in a plywood box for six months, ready for a move, but the city didn't want to pick it up. So now, it remains near the parking garage, not the best site, but the artist is relieved that it didn't end under a blowtorch.

Lost: Graveyards in the U.S. and abroad are being plundered for statuary, markers and even shrubbery, and mausoleum stained glass, all stolen for sale at auctions, antique shops and flea markets to collectors or those seeking an unusual item of home decor or garden sculpture.

Found: The grandson of Joan Miro has discovered a drawing by Picasso given to his

grandfather as a gift. The previously unknown pastel wash drawing, approximately 32 x 20 inches, depicts a bullfighting scene. Joan Punyet Miro was cataloging his grandfather's library when he found an original Picasso inside a book dedicated to the art of bullfighting. It was inscribed: "For Miro, your friend always" and was dated 1963.

Maybe Found: Word has it that the missing masterpieces stolen from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston in 1990 may be returned, depending upon sensitive discussions between federal officials, a jailed art thief and a convicted associate. Of course, the FBI wants to solve a crime, whereas the museum wants its art back. Too many questions have to be answered but there may be some kind of resolution in the near future. Watch your papers for developments.

Almost lost: The Chapel of the Holy Shroud, desired by Guarino Guarini in 1666 has for the most part been destroyed by fire. Only the outer shell of the structure and the topmost part of the lantern are intact. And it was being restored and would have been unveiled in April, the very month of the fire.

Found: Federal prosecutors have recovered more than \$10 million worth of valuable drawings including works by Rembrandt and Albrecht Durer, which were part of the collection looted from the Bremen museum in Germany at the chaotic end of World War II and later stolen from the National Museum of Baku in Azerbaijan. A Japanese 60-year-old man was charged with possession and sale of stolen artwork in Manhattan. He had wanted to sell the drawings which were stolen, so that he could pay for a transplant.

Lost: 200 Big Little Books, including Bugs Bunny, Blondie, Dick Tracy, Donald Duck, Mickey Mouse, Popeye, Tarzan, Tom Mix were stolen from Walter Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis East Bank Campus, on the weekend of August 15 - 17.

Lost: An organized gang of robbers, probably working on commission, stole the only work in the Antwerp Museum of Fine Arts by Vincent Van Gogh. "The Potato Picker", an oil on paper sketch valued at about \$800,000, was stolen on 3 September.

Finders Keepers: Thomas P. Chatalbash, owner of 7 miniatures from the early 1500s, four by Simon Bening, the most famous Flemish master of miniature painting, discovered that they came from the library of the University of Kassel and had been stolen during World War II. With authentication and legal assistance, the owner refuses to return them to the German government.

MUSEUM NEWS

The J. Paul Getty Trust since February has spent many hundreds of thousands of dollars buying prints and drawings by contemporary American and European artists to decorate offices and vestibules in the new Getty Center, whose construction is now nearing completion and will open in December. According to art critic of the Los Angeles Times, Christopher Knight, the collection sends disappointing signals. Most of the purchases were not made in Los Angeles. Purchasing more than 100 prints and drawings, doubling a collection begun in 1984, there are 13 works by Jennifer Bartlett (1995), a Roy Lichtenstein print, 10 more Frank Stella etchings and lithographs added to 6 already in the collection, works by Lita Albuquerque, Christo, Jim Dine, David Hockney, Ellsworth Kelly, Sol LeWitt, Robert Mangold, Claes Oldenburg, Pat Steir add to the collection. New work by Domenico Bianchi, Adolph Gottlieb, Damien Hirst, Donald Judd, Anish Kapoor, Julian Lethbridge and about a dozen more are the new names in town. Knight cites that most of the work is "mostly in-between work".

The Getty has commissioned Edward Ruscha and Alexis Smith (L.A. artists) to create permanent installations at the new Getty Center in Brentwood. Ruscha is creating a 23 x 12 foot painting of light streaming through space for the lobby of the auditorium, and Smith is designing a three-part, mixed-media wall piece on the subject of taste (in art, food, fashion and decor) for the restaurant.

The **Wolfsonian Museum** in Miami Beach is going to Florida International University which will take over the museum and maintain the building. The gift from Mitchell "Micky" Wolfson Jr. is the result of 30 years of world travel and the accumulation of 70,000 works from an \$84 million inheritance. He transformed a landmark building into a museum and research center, hired 28 people to assemble academic exhibitions, but did not create a trust to sustain the operation. An annex where much of the collection is stored will be bought by FIU. The period covered is 1885 - 1945, "a museum of the Industrial Age."

The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, the first one to be dedicated to the work of a woman artist in America, opened on 17 July in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The 13,000 square-foot museum houses a permanent collection of O'Keeffe's art, unsurpassed by any museum in the world.

Coinciding with the opening of the museum, SITE Santa Fe, the region's only institution devoted to international contemporary art, will present its second international biennial, organized by curator Francesco Bonami, and featuring the work of approximately 27 artists representing 20 countries along with a wide variety of educational programs.

The museum lost its director less than two weeks afterwards. Peter Hassrick said he came to Santa Fe to do what he had to do, and it was time to move on.

The Boston Museum of Fine Arts has just unveiled for a limited time, its collections of Asian art, called "Tales from the Land of Dragons", showing many classic works for the first time and for this time only through 20 July 1997.

The Museum of Australian Art is a new adjunct of the National Gallery of Victoria, which will cover indigenous and non-indigenous art in all media. The opening will be in 2001 in Melbourne.

NEW TECHNOLOGY

Two inventors working for Eastman Kodak have invented a boxlike picture viewer with a built-in recording and playback device, a photo album with a sound track.

The U.K. is experimenting with a revolutionary laser that could create debate in the art world on the cleaning and restoration of old paintings. According to the Financial Times in London, scientists believe that by the early years of the next decade, the technique will offer an alternative to the swabs, scalpels and solvents used to clean oil paintings.

DATELINE: Moscow

Artist Zurab Tsereteli appears to be the Court Sculptor of Russia transforming Moscow's landscape with his monumental sculptures. His 15-story monument to Peter the Great jets up from an island in the Moscow River, and some people don't like it. His aesthetic is "Big is Beautiful."

The Russian Parliament overturned a presidential veto on a bill declaring all works of art seized by the Soviet Army from Nazi Germany to be Russian property. Yeltsin said that the Bill violated international law. Russia and Germany had agreed to call for a negotiated settlement of the art problem. At risk are about 200,000 works of art, including paintings by Goya, Delacroix, Van Gogh and Renoir, which were seized from museums and private collections in Germany by the victorious Soviet forces.

DATELINE: Spain

The Juan March Foundation's Museum of Spanish Contemporary Art in Palma de Mallorca has reopened, following the expansion of its quarters. Included are 15 galleries of works by Picasso, Miro, Dali, Gris, Julio Gonzalez, Tapies, Saura, Barcelo, Gordillo, Sicilia, Solano and Jordi Teixidor.

Barcelona - Peter Greenaway's installation at the Fondacio Miro in Barcelona, which closed on 11 May, was entitled "Flying on

water: the adventure of Icarus", which explored the famous myth from a variety of angles, with the aid of multimedia technology. According to Greenaway, famed for his films as well as his installations, the desire to fly is "universal. Every culture and every period of history has tried to realize this impossible dream...European culture has manifested an exuberant inventiveness: Perseus, Pegasus, the Sphinx, Cuneo, and Icarus, the first pilot, responsible for the first air crash in human history."

So, the exhibition is about hope, ambition, transitory success and the inevitable failure of the impossible dream of flying. Included were a large number of books, from medieval manuscripts with miniature paintings of angels to the most recent manuals of aeronautics. Also on display were various types of wax, feathers and sea water, various intensities of sun and wind, mythical creatures and flying machines.

DATELINE: Australia

On the heels of a revelation that an acclaimed male Aboriginal artist was actually the invention of a rich, elderly white woman, a white man admitted that he also made up an award-winning supposed autobiography of an Aboriginal woman.

"My Own Sweet Time" critically hailed, believed to be the autobiography of Wanda Koolmatrine was written by Leon Carmen, a 47-year old Sydney resident. In revealing the hoax, Carmen said that he was forced to write under the name and identity of Koolmatrine because politically correct publishers and awards judges in Australia discriminate against white men. Previously, Australian gallery owners and museum curators learned that paintings supposedly done by acclaimed Aboriginal painter Eddie Burrup were really the work of Elizabeth Durack, 82.

Maningrida - An Aboriginal settlement of about 1000 people in central Arnhem Land is run by a professional staff of local people and white advisors. Its home pages were posted in mid-1995 using the latest online technology. 300 or so artists sell to the art center, mining their country and their culture for the materials and stories that are depicted in their work. In addition, the cultural research officer and an Aboriginal have taken the re-education of online didgeridoo enthusiasts from around the world via the music pages of the Web site. But visits are not entertained to study under the "master" nor are women or children given much opportunity on earth, let alone in cyberspace.

DATELINE: Paris

987 confiscated art works have gone on display in five museums in the Paris region: the Louvre, the Musée d'Orsay, the Centre Georges Pompidou, the National Ceramics Museum in Sevres and the Chateau de Versailles. These works were taken mainly from

Jewish owners. The 400-page catalog contains the whereabouts of 1,963 artworks stolen from Jewish families, many held in French regional museums, including paintings by Monet, Renoir, Sisley, Gauguin and Courbet.

DATELINE: Lidice, Czechoslovakia

The Czech town of Lidice was the scene of a chilling Nazi atrocity. In the spring of 1942, Czech anti-Nazi partisans staged an unsuccessful assassination attempt upon Richard Heydrich, the top Nazi official in Bohemia and Moravia. In retaliation, Heydrich ordered that all of the men of Lidice be shot, the women and children deported to concentration camps, and the town leveled. Only 16 of 500 residents survived.

25 years later, during Czechoslovakia's brief "Prague Spring," German art dealer Rene Block organized an exhibition, **Homage to Lidice**, and persuaded 21 German artists including Beuys, Polke and Im-mendorf to contribute works to the exhibition that would be donated to the art museum then being planned for Lidice. The exhibition went on display in 1968 shortly before troops from the other Warsaw Pact nations invaded Czechoslovakia to suppress the reform movement. The works in the exhibition went into storage and were then lost.

Last year, the artworks re-appeared in a castle outside of Prague, prompting plans to redisplay the 1968 exhibition in Prague and Berlin. Going further, Block decided to invite younger German artists to contribute. The expanded exhibition opened in Prague during March, and includes 55 works by 52 artists. In keeping with original plans, the works will be donated to Lidice.

DATELINE: Madrid

To honor the anniversary of the death of Miguel de Cervantes on 23 April 1616, people gathered in Madrid to read nonstop the author's masterpiece, *Don Quixote*, which took over 27 hours and 815 people. Spaniards and non-Spaniards stepped in to celebrate the author at the Fine Arts Center's exposition hall. Just after 9 on the morning after, when a blind young girl stepped up with her *Don Quixote* in braille and ran her fingers over the page and let the words ring out, the reading stopped. Alas, the final quarter of the book remained unread.

Madrid - The Prado Museum is fixing its roof, which should be finished by the middle of 1998. The Board has decided to go ahead with scaled-down plans starting with refurbishing some rooms above the main floor. They will probably acquire the former Army Museum and exhibitions will change, thanks to the moving of the museum's library and administrative offices to a nearby office building, thus freeing more space inside the main building.

Madrid - Picasso's *Guernica* is going to stay in Madrid at the Reina Sofia and not be sent to Bilbao for the opening of the new Guggenheim Museum, because it is too fragile.

DATELINE: Italy

Italy plans to protect its art treasures from theft and natural disaster and has allocated \$59 million to restore Turin Cathedral, which was damaged by first in April. The Cabinet has agreed to invest \$1000 million in a "security plan" to protect Italy's artistic heritage. The plan would target some 1,000 sites around the country, including the installation of more smoke, fire and burglar alarms at museums and archeological sites.

In April, fire raced through the Baroque Guarini Chapel at the back of the Turin Cathedral, which had housed the Shroud of Turin. The city's adjacent Royal Palace and more than 80 art works were destroyed but the firefighters rescued the Shroud, which some Catholics believe to be the burial cloth of Jesus.

Rome - Villa Borghese re-opened at the end of June after 14 years of being closed because of structural problems. Now it has used modern technology to deal with administrative matters. Thanks to Water Veltroni, the cultural minister, things are humming for renovations of other museums as well. Even by 2000, Palazzo Barberini will be re-opened with 7000 sq. meters of "state of the art" exhibition space.

DATELINE: Venice

Flood waters in Venice rose to their highest spring level for 75 years on 7 May, raising fears that the city is sinking at an increasing rate. The record, 49½ feet above sea level

DATELINE: England

A fire swept through the Royal Academy of Arts building in central London on 3 May, involving the first two floors. According to the Academy spokesman, a small number of architectural drawings and one or two sculptures had been damaged, but no paintings were affected. Two galleries housing the upcoming annual Summer Exhibition were hit by the fire, which officials said started on the roof, where repairs apparently had been taking place.

One of the world's most visited web sites is the new site of the Queen of England, launched in March. The 165-page web site has been accessed 12.5 million times, or 6.25 million per month. By tapping in

<http://www.royal.gov.uk> computer users round the world can now tour some of Buckingham Palace and receive news of royal visits.

David Hockney has been invited by British Airways to change its image. 55 artists in all

are being approached to provide designs that will turn the BA fleet into flying works of largely abstract art. Bright colors will be the menu of the day. The "speedwing" arrow logo will be replaced with a curvey abstract design chosen to look "warm and cuddly".

Hockney has been asked to provide a design that would extend from the tip of the tailfin to the rear fuselage. However, he hasn't confirmed officially that he has time to do the work. It's a big change, because they will have to repaint every plane in its 300-strong fleet as well as thousands of ground vehicles, and change airport signs, checkin desks, stationery and other hardware. British Airways wants to shed its British image and become a global airline.

DATELINE: Hong Kong

A controversial poster featuring a nude woman has been approved by the Provisional Urban Council after the designer agreed to tone it down. Advertising the Afro-Caribbean Dance Workshop's latest performance, the poster was originally rejected, since it features a naked woman with half of her body painted with primitive-looking lines and squiggles. A male is also portrayed nude, although the performances included clothed dancers or with painted bodies.

DATELINE: Bilbao

A custody battle has broken out between two Spanish museums over Picasso's "Guernica", one of the best known paintings of the 20th century. Basque nationalists renewed demands for the transfer of the painting to the new Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, while the painting now hangs in Madrid's Reina Sofia Museum, to which it was moved from the Prado five years ago, contrary to the artist's wishes.

The management of the Guggenheim is prepared to accept the painting on "short-term loan" to celebrate its inauguration on 3 October. "Short term" means two years to the Guggenheim. But the Reina Sofia will not part with the painting even for two days.

DATELINE: Australia

The airports of Australia in Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth are being taken over by the private sector and in these three airports, 1% of the building budget went for artwork, but it looks like most of the artwork went to lesser-known artists, but famous artists such as Arthur Boyd, Sidney Nolan and Albert Namatjira are also included usually in smaller works in the airports' VIP lounges. Large-scale works went for arrival, departure and shopping areas.

Canberra - Dr. Brian Kennedy has been appointed the new Director of the National Gallery of Australia. He comes from the National Gallery of Ireland in Dublin, where he spent the past 8 years as Assistant Director. He replaces Betty Churcher, who is retiring

and has been director of the Gallery since 1990.

DATELINE: Mali

Mali's greatest photographer, Seydou Keita (see Gagosian in New York City and LA) has fame, but no fortune. It seems the book fee he got was used to help with expenses for his 13 children and large extended family. And he doesn't have a camera anymore. That's his story, but a French art collector, Andre Magnin, says Keita has lots of money in the bank. In a country where the average annual income is \$200, wouldn't you conceal how much money you have made as a famous photographer?

DATELINE: France

Cats have nine lines, and some villages have more than one. After the mountain village in southern France, Montolieu, lived off vineyards and olive groves until 50 years ago, when other sections of the world produced them far more cheaply. Montolieu farmers were told to abandon the fields to avoid overproduction of wine grapes and olives, and the community dropped from 3,000 to 800. Now in its third reincarnation, Montolieu is devoting itself to books. Compared to the one bakery, one grocery, one butcher, and one bistro, there are now 12 bookstores, filled with rare and secondhand volumes. Other dealers are on their way. Richard Booth, the kind of Hay-on-Wye in Wales, who turned that town into a book village, was consulted, and now book-dealers are coming in droves to set up shops and more than 100,000 tourists have come to the village. If you're going to Carcassonne, you cannot miss Montolieu.

DATELINE: Sarajevo

The New York Times tells us that the arts are reawakening in Sarajevo, especially in film and in theater. Even the Music Academy was kept open throughout the war. Affran Ramic, a 65-year-old painter whose son was killed in the war, continued to work despite the absence of oils and canvas. Instead, he made somber collages out of charred wood, fiber-glass and mangled objects found in destroyed buildings. Today, these hang in his studio. During the war, his studio was looted of 270 paintings and drawings. Most of the older artists are still in exile, while a new generation of men and women in their 20s have participated in a summerlong rotating exhibition organized by the Soros Center for Contemporary Art, including installations, performances and video work. The 12 pre-war galleries have been reduced to four and no one has money to buy art.

DATELINE: Venice

The winners at the Venice Biennale are: The Golden Lion to Angles Martin, Emilio Vedova, Marina Abramovic, Gerhard Richter. The Best Young Artist award went to Rachel Whiteread, Douglas Gordon and Pipilotti Rist. The Illycaffè Award (most promising young artist) is Sam Taylor Wood. And the Best Pavilion is France.

The Malling of the China Wall

A "culture square" will replace souvenir shops and parking lots next to the most visited section of China's Great Wall. The new blueprint calls for markets, shops and parking lots to be relocated further away from the Badaling section of the Wall. In their place, a plaza will feature an ancient-style battlefield and statues of famous figures involved in the wall's history, according to the Xinhua News Agency. Badaling, about an hour outside Beijing by expressway, receives about 20,000 visitors a day.

LIBRARY NEWS

The *Bibliothèque Nationale de France*, which opened in December in Paris, is raising lots of criticism about its appearance and exorbitant cost. Designed by the architect Dominique Perrault, the \$1.5 billion complex has been subject to rumors, gossip and criticism since its inception.

Colorado State University in Ft. Collins was hit by torrential floods on 28 July, creating damage as high as \$40 million, due largely to the way the water surged into the building, scattering books and mangling shelves. 10% of the collection was lost. 80% of the damaged volumes would be salvageable. The newspaper archive was destroyed, but its historic collection including papyrus from ancient Egypt and 19th-century photographs survived.

Libraries in 23 of Poland's 49 administrative districts reported heavy damage to collections, buildings, and equipment as a result of July-August flooding. Waters from the raging Odra River killed at least 33 people and left some 100,000 homeless. 20,000 books were destroyed, even though all efforts were taken to sandbag barricades around the university's main building. Hundreds of thousands of volumes were damaged in Opole, at the Smolka Regional Public Library, and 4,000 volumes dating from the 17th - 19th centuries were damaged at the Theological Seminary Library in Nysa.

FLUXUS NEWS

Sea-change, an exhibition of handmade paper constructions and found objects by performance art pioneer and Fluxus artist, Alison Knowles, opened on 3 October at the Emily Harvey Gallery. This exhibition is a continuation

of Knowles's exploration of the relationship between the tactile and the temporal, the earthly and the everyday, and the singular and the universal. Performance art is combined with paper works (books, prints, multiples, paper pulp, installations) that she employs to question assumptions about art as narrative, didactic, controllable, and impulsive. Viewers are asked to grab a piece of wet paper pulp and make a fist around it. The resulting *Fist Grip* is the "positive" created from the "negative" space of the empty hand. Each visitor's "Fist Grip" is then embedded with a string tag stating the name of an endangered animal. The show closes 1 November at Emily Harvey Gallery, 537 Broadway, New York City.

Emmett Williams' new book, *Mr. Fluxus*, was released in Antwerp, Belgium on 18 September. You can find Emmett Williams' exhibition *Conflux/Reflux* at <http://www.vrtalitis.com/finearts/archive/>

ROCK ART

The Ascent of Western Civilization: The American Indie Rock Movement 1976-1991 opened on 13 September through 6 November at Thread Waxing Space, 476 Broadway, New York City. Organized by Michael Azerrad, the show seeks to demonstrate that "the indie rock movement, far from being the offhanded product of a bunch of nihilistic slackers, was the result of a lot of creativity, cooperation and hard work by a specific community with its own aesthetic." Allen Bukoff has 35 pieces of work, including pins, games, handouts, novelties, and flyers crated for various bands originating in Kent/Akron, Ohio during the early 1980s.

DO-IT-YOURSELF SHOW

Do It - a collaborative do-it-yourself project at Cranbrook Art Academy, Bloomfield Hills, MI until 26 October is based on the concept of a do-it-yourself manual, the product of students and people from the community following step-by-step instructions to make art work conceived by a roster of international artists. In this unusual exhibition, the art work can be made by anyone and the number of participants involved in their creation is unlimited. The artistic instructions simply establish a framework and site, either the museum or the home, in which the art work can be realized. The list of artists includes such names as Christian Boltanski, Critical Art Ensemble, Jimmie Durham, Hans-Peter Feldman, Felix Gonzales-Torres, Ilya Kabakov, Alison Knowles, Yoko Ono, Pepon Osorio, Jason Rhoades, Rupert Sheldrake, Rirkrit Tiravanija, Lawrence Weiner and Erwin Wurm.

PRESERVATION NEWS

The Estate Project for Artists with AIDS in Los Angeles will fund four major programs

through a \$90,000 grant including a UCLA Arts Library plan to develop an oral history program around documentary tapes by controversial performance artist Ron Athey, art supply grants and documentation and legal services to be offered by the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center to artists living with HIV or AIDS; and the Virtual Collection, the Estate Project's largest program, which will digitize slide archives of images created by American artists with AIDS.

ANOTHER CHRISTO PROJECT

Christo and Jeanne-Claude have begun their campaign in Colorado, in Salida, with the Over the River project, which would be their first in Colorado since 1972, when winds ripped loose an orange curtain they had unfurled across Rifle Gap the day before. They envision draping horizontal panels of translucent fabric over sections of the Arkansas River between Salida and Parkdale in 1998. The big challenge to government agencies in Chaffee and Fremont counties in Colorado to decide whether to issue permits for canopying the river in the narrow, rugged canyon. The project should last two weeks, hopefully under a full moon for part of that time. The hope is to have it during a full moon in 1998.

NEW ART EDUCATIONAL GOALS

George Flosich III has just enrolled in the Cleveland Institute of Art, majoring in graphic arts, but working in a medium the school doesn't offer: *Etch-a-Sketch*. He's spent about 9 years (he's 18) perfecting the art of Etch A Sketch-ing, creating portraits such as Joe Namath, Michael Jordan or Muhammad Ali. (It takes 30 - 40 hours to complete just one portrait). The finished portraits look more like pen-and-ink drawings than tinkering on a child's toy. He has a business called *Etched in Time*. For \$1,000 to \$3,000, you can buy an original work. Limited edition lithographs can be purchased for only \$50.

ARTIST SPACES

Franklin Furnace, once the home of a huge collection of artist books (most of which were donated in threes as a gift to the Archive) and a performance space as well as gallery shows) is closing as a space after 20 years, according to Martha Wilson, director. She will digitize its performance archive and go on line with live performance art next spring. Oddly enough, she shared this news with Princess Di's death in the New York Times on 1 September. She will be selling the space for nearly \$500,000 and with that money meeting a challenge grant from the NEA, she will begin to archive the Franklin Furnace material including 25,000 slides and hundreds of videos, covering the careers of Willie Cole, Jenny Holzer, Barbara Kruger, Ida Applebroog, as well as Eric Bogosian, Karen Finley, Annie Sprinkle and Paul Zaloom.

CADILLAC RANCH RELOCATED

Because Amarillo, Texas is starting to grow too close to the open plain where the Cadillacs previously stood, Stanley Marsh has moved his "Cadillac Ranch", a sort of automotive Stonehenge created in 1973, so that they are buried nose-down cars in a row in a wheat field beside the interstate, about 2 miles west of the previous site. The artists are Chip Lord, Doug Michel, and Hudson B. Marquez. The Cadillacs are graffiti-covered which was the intent of the artists, to make the event participatory in that visitors are encouraged to add to the graffiti on the cars.

CREATIVES ON CALL

This temporary agency, founded in 1995, provides temporary employees in a variety of creative positions including production art, illustration, graphic design, writing and photography in St. Louis. It fills in the dry spells with work, allowing artists to use the company's equipment and office space to complete projects if necessary.

PERFORMANCE

Festival for Eyes and Ears from 29 - 31 October in Odense, Denmark including performances and installations by Takako Saito, Carolee Schneemann, Alison Knowles, Coco Gordon, Ben Patterson, Paul Panhuysen, Anna Bring, Mauricio Kagel, Stockhausen, and many more. The Festival was organized by Else Jespersen, director of Galleri Jespersen. For more information, contact gallerij@post1.tele.dk

The first **Bread Bandits Art Action** was completed on 5 July 1997 at the Dupont Circle fountain in Washington, DC. The Bread Bandits arrived at approximately 2 P.M. and began laying down a ring of sliced white Wonderbread at the curb of the fountain, completely circumscribing it with bread. The sculpture was completed at 2:30 p.m. using 24 loaves of bread, or approximately 575 slices, and the Action continued with the distribution of broadsheet manifestoes and identifying business cards. Panino Bandito organized the event.

R.I.P.

After more than 70 years in operation, the New York Times 43rd Street Press Room closed in June. If you'd like to take a virtual tour through the Press Room "Behind the Brass Door" celebrates the legacy of the presses.

<http://www.nytimes.com/specials/presses>

INTERESTING WEB SITES

European Cyber Gallery of Modern Art
<http://www.eurochannel.de/cyber-gallery>

Artist books and fine press
<http://www.legacyart.com>

Arts Wire

<http://www.artswire.org>

UbuWeb: Concrete, Visual and Sound Poetry
<http://www.ubuweb.com/vp>

Arts of the Book Collection, Yale University Library
<http://www.library.yale.edu/aob/aobmain.htm>

Artists' Resource Letter from School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston:
<http://www.smfa.edu/info/joblist.html>

Flamewar, produced by Judy Malloy, is an interactive, collaboratively created website.
<http://www.artswire.org/~jmalloy/flamewar.html>

PUBLIC ART

A renegade artist is covering light poles, bus benches and fire hydrants in South Beach with colorful tile mosaics, infuriating city officials but turning the art into a neighborhood folk hero. Dubbed the "mosaic madman", Daniel Sierra is considered someone who is improving the neighborhood by some, endangering lives by others. He uses broken bathroom tile, ceramic bowls, or whatever he can find. Some people save him boxes and boxes of chipped and broken tile. He did apply for a permit but was denied.

CENSORSHIP

A *University of Utah* administrator altered an art exhibition at the Union Building, an action which was condemned by the Associated Students Assembly. The rearrangement of a Trevor Southey painting containing male nudity was part of a small exhibit presented during a conference for Affirmation, a group of gay and lesbian Mormons. The painting was moved around a corner to a less conspicuous spot. Students complained that they should have been consulted.

The artistic director of the *Adelaide Festival* in Australia, Robyn Archer, has generated a new wave of anger from the religious community, by exhibiting a poster depicting the Madonna holding an accordion. He has tried to garner support from respondents to a letter claiming religious extremists had fuelled hysteria over the poster. The whole issue was tempered by the Festival Chairman, who told the religious community that the poster would not be used at all to advertise the Adelaide Festival.

In New Wilmington, PA, a parent requested that *The Life and Works of Renoir* be pulled from the shelves of the elementary school, the Materials Review Committee voted 4 - 1 to pull the book from the general collection and placed it in a "restricted area". After her son brought the book home, the parent objected to the book because the reproductions of

Renoir's works included nudity. She felt the book was not "age-appropriate." The review committee appointed to consider the objection to the book were provided with several documents, including "The Library Bill of Rights", etc. but only after they had reached a decision. Because the book has been placed on a six-foot-high shelf in an elementary school, the librarian suspects the biography will soon disappear since library policy calls for the book's removal if it hasn't been checked out in five years. For more information, contact People for the American Way, 2000 M St. NW, Washington, DC 20009. e-mail: pfaw@pfaw.org and website:

<http://pfaw.org>

ARTS RESOURCES

CDeMUSIC is a consortium of alternative music makers and record labels from across the U.S., dedicated to the exploration of New Music. Included are American Gamelan, Artifact, C.R.I. Deep Listening, Einstein, Frog Peak, Knitting Factory, Lovely Music, New World, OoDises, Pogus, Tellus, WatNext and XI. You can order from one catalog and source, so call (888)749-9998 or write to 116 No. Lake Ave., Albany, NY 12206, or find the offerings on

http://www.emf.org/cde_frontdoor.html

Starkland including music on CD or LP by Dresher, Dockstader, Persichetti, Adams and Mabry, among others are available from Starkland, P.O. Box 2190, Boulder, CO 80306.

Art Resources Transfer in Los Angeles is a project which distributes books on contemporary art and cultural issues free of charge to public libraries, schools, community centers, and recreation centers (basically any site which is open to the public, and has some sort of library, reading room or resource center). They currently serve approximately 1,000 central and branch libraries around the country. Their books are donated by publishers, including the Fellows of Contemporary Art, the Pasadena Art Alliance, the Museum of Modern Art, and Astro Artz (now the 18th St. Arts Complex). Now this Distribution to Underserved Communities (DUC) has been awarded two grants to expand the program to more Los Angeles-area libraries. If you work for, or know of, any organization that would be interested in these books, please let Margaret Pezalla-Grandlund know at (213)936-3039, fax:(213)936-2338 or pezalla@directnet.com

Proverbial Pure Rubber Bands with a street value of 25 cents each have been created by Sarah Schwartz in New York City. Because she has difficulties with certain words, certain definitives, certain definitions, she has responded with stamping words on rubber bands, the simple notion being that certain words need expanding, their definitions must be made more elastic, their ideas more resilient. Some of the words are *sexy, love, fear, pride, beauty, wisdom, taboo, agony* and many more. For more information, contact Marguerite Day at (212)587-9175 or call toll free: (888)737-8345.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO UMBRELLA MUSEUM

Carole Terry, Peter & Angela Netmail, Merle Schipper, Ray Reece, Barbara Pascal, Cal Davis, Gabriel Rummonds, Janice Mercure, Anne Siberell, Dawn Henney, Elzas-Bellin Family, Claire Isaacs, Stephen Perkins, Vida Hackman, Anna Banana, Noreen Grahame, Linda Ekstrom, Beth Bachenheimer

UMBRELLA NEWS

The Travelers Group insurance company put up a building in Tribeca last spring, and people in the neighborhood and Greenwich Village complained about the umbrella logo placed on the upper facade of the building. They said the neon umbrella ruined their **views of downtown Manhattan.**

It has been reported in the **New York Times** that real men don't carry umbrellas—at least not in the Army and the Marines. But according to the **Army Times**, a change in policy has been advocated. Seems lots of people care about umbrellas. The Air Force and the Navy have an umbrellas-for-all policy. Army and Marine brass can order aides to carry umbrellas over their heads. A Navy or Air Force buddy can provide strategic cover. And in a kind of reverse sex discrimination women in the Army and the Marines are entitled to umbrella protection. The umbrella policy primarily affects the soldier-bureaucrats who have to walk the 15 minutes it takes to get from the Pentagon to the farthest parking lot. (At the Army-Navy football game, the Navy men sit under their umbrellas while the Army men get wet.) Looks like the Marines will change the "nonsensical" umbrella policy soon, thanks to General P.X. Kelley. It is perhaps worth noting that umbrellas on occasion have been useful on the battlefield. The British carried umbrellas in 1815 to the battle of Waterloo. Napoleon's troops thought they looked ridiculous. Maybe so, but the British won.

Atlantic Monthly reports: Expiring Patent #4,203,457. Attachable Wearable Umbrella. "A collapsible umbrella which is detachably mounted to a garment of a wearer so as to be supported...in the opened position of the umbrella above the head of the wearer, comprising an umbrella assembly [attached to] a pair of ...brackets each adaptable for mounting externally on the shoulder section of a coat.



Rupert Howard