

FROM THE EDITOR

This issue seems endless, not because of a desire to do a cut-off, but because the material seems like a bottomless pit. In this so-called "paperless society", we use more paper, receive more paper, and retain more paper than ever before. This issue is late, not only because of the mass of information, but because I was so very busy with the Women of the Book exhibition for 7 weeks. Getting out from under a most demanding schedule, I started writing the newsletter 4 weeks ago. And thereby hangs an issue. So I have tried to incorporate all the news that you need to make your spring something rich and eventful.

Then, the Out of Action show opened at MOCA and I became the chauffeur of Emmett Williams, renowned poet and performer, who came to L.A. to perform in the "Beyond the Pink" Festival as ancillary to the MOCA show and events. What fun, but what 10 days they were—and that delayed the newsletter too. So forgive me, but I haven't been twiddling my thumbs.

I met Gustave Metzger again, John Latham for the first time, renewed greetings with Shozo Shimamoto, sat down with Allan Kaprow, Eleanor and David Antin, toured with Kristine Stiles, chatted with Simone Forti, greeted Joan Jonas, said hello countless times to Charlemagne Palestine, conversed with Paul Cotton, had a great time with Carolee Schneemann, and I could go on. But that's enough name dropping for now.

When I turned the corner at MOCA and saw Shozo Shimamoto, he had a young assistant adhering letters to his bald head. When he saw me, we greeted each other with surprise and joy, and then he came looking for me while I was taking a tour of the show with Kristine Stiles. He had put "Umbrella" on his forehead in silver letters. So when I saw the 15 February issue of the New York Times Magazine cover with a bald head of a young lady inscribed with sectioned off "things to do", I was reminded that Shozo was there first! He was a performance artist and painter, before he founded Artist Union in Osaka and became a leading archive and alternative space in Japan. He is 69 and looks younger than all of his, in spite of an earthquake and a heart attack!

Happy New Year to you all, this 21st year of Umbrella's life. The anthology is slowly coming together, and an announcement will be made to all of you soon. If you have paid your subscription for 1998, you will be given a special price. If not, you may not even hear

about it. This will be the last issue sent to anyone who has not renewed their 1998 subscription.

And for those of you who were interested in the Museum of Jurassic Technology in Culver City, the Lannan Foundation gave it a grant of \$250,000 to put a down payment on the building in which it is housed. It was a miracle, and indeed ensures that the Museum will continue in its present home indefinitely.

And perhaps you have been in Antarctica if you haven't heard about the Getty. It is open, too popular for those who traffic on the 405 Freeway, and very much part of the LA cultural fabric. And such beautiful publications have come out of the Museum!

And as for El Niño, well no one has built an ark as yet, but we're crossing our fingers that this 7-day respite as I write will allow the earth to dry a bit. The landslides continue, the mud abounds in many places, the roofs are being repaired, the leaks sometimes unavoidable, because of all the water, but we survive. Stanford University's Green Library, however, had a soaking with 100,000 books being put into deep freeze after damage not only to the books, but the Music Library was hit with half the LPs lost and more

— jah

If you wish to get a copy of the Umbrella Anthology out later this year for pre-publication price, then send in \$20.00 IMMEDIATELY IF NOT SOONER by 31 March to get the original pre-publication price. \$20.00

LOOKING FOR WEST COAST BOOK ARTISTS ACTIVE IN THE 1970s. If you were actively creating sculptural books during the 1970s and you lived on the West Coast, from California to Washington, then please contact Judith A. Hoffberg immediately with slides, c.v. and other information for possible inclusion in an exhibition in San Francisco in June.

Umbrella is published by Umbrella Associates, and the editor is Judith A. Hoffberg, P.O. Box 3640, Santa Monica, CA 90408. Phone: (310)399-1146, fax: (310)399-5070. e-mail: umbrella@ix.netcom.com Subscriptions are available for the calendar year only, payable in American currency ©1998