

EXHIBITION CATALOGS

Daniel Spoerri: *Le Cabinet Anatomique* with text by Otto Hahn (New York, Emily Harvey Gallery, 2000, price unknown) is a stunning contribution to Fluxus Art history. Done as reflections on "operations" on the basis of the drawings of Nicolas Jacob, who was a student of David, these exquisite magical objects attached to images become remarkable three-dimensional object works. Using chance operation, these assemblages have a magical quality, thanks to the objects attached to the images. They become more than their parts.

Accompanied by a translation and introduction by Henry Martin, this exquisitely designed catalog by Sara Seagull makes a wonderful addition to any Fluxus or contemporary art collection. There are 13 color plates and other illustrations.

Magritte with an essay by Siegfried Gohr (New York, Abrams, 2000, \$24.95 paper) accompanies an exhibition at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art through 5 September. This collection of key works illustrated by 65 full color plates and 20 illustrations is particularly notable because it shows Magritte's influence on the art of the latter half of the 20th century. The catalog sometimes works better than the show itself, which was perfunctorily hung in the museum. Buy the catalog and you have accomplished all you need to.

Lucio Fontana by Sarah Whitfield (Berkeley, University of California Press, 2000, \$35.00 paper) celebrates the centenary of Fontana's birth and his exhibition at the Hayward Gallery in London in early 2000. With 110 color photographs, 43 black and white illustrations, an illustrated chronology and selected bibliography, this volume celebrates one of the major artists of the 20th century, influential and innovative. He creates raw, vigorous and often intensely beautiful works, breaking with convention, always challenging the dogma about the work of art and the role of the artist in the age of rapidly changing technology. This is a major contribution showing Fontana's spirit of exploration, questioning and extending boundaries, and provoking an ever-growing audience.

Barbara Kruger (Cambridge, MIT Press, 2000, \$40 cloth) is far more than a picture book. There are essays by Gary Indiana, Ann Goldstein, organizer of the exhibition which first showed at MOCA in Los Angeles and will close on 22 October at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City; Rosalyn Deutsche, Steven Heller, Carol Squiers, Katherine Dieckmann, Lynne Tillman's

interview. The many sides of Barbara Kruger are seen by these critics. Included is an exhibition chronology, bibliography and 375 illustrations of which 125 are in color!

Vanitas: Meditations on Life and Death in Contemporary Art by John B. Ravenal (Richmond, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 2000, \$18.95 paper) with references to the Bible and 17th-century Dutch still-life painting, links the works of 14 contemporary artists to the age-old theme of life's transience. Included are Miroslaw Balka, Christian Boltanski, Leonardo Drew, Tony Feher, Robert Gober, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Mona Hatoum, Jim Hodges, Anish Kapoor, Jac Leirner, Zoe Leonard, Gabriel Orozco, Rachel Whiteread and Yukinori Yanagi. At the same time, it presents these artists in their 20th-century context while exploring the related themes of beauty and death, pleasure and fear, love and loss. The curator's take on this theme is much more than conventional. It is radical and iconoclastic. 14 color plates.

Unnatural Science at Mass MoCA, the largest center for contemporary visual and performing arts in the United States from 3 June - 15 March 2001, curated by Laura Steward Heon.

The exhibition brings together contemporary works that use the discoveries, inventions, and methods of science as a springboard for fantastic aesthetic and intellectual investigations. Artists include Kiki Smith, Catherine Chalmers, Matthew Ritchie, Young Sun Lim and Tim Hawkinson who do monumental works. **Kiki Smith** has a work called *Constellations*, exploring state-of-the-art astronomy as it was 500 years ago, incorporating glass stars and large glass animals on a circular field of dark blue Nepal paper.

Steina Vasulka has electronically manipulated sounds and images of the stark Iceland landscape projected onto panels which surround the viewer.

Young Sun Lim has created 200 imaginary zoological specimens made from silicon gel suspending in illuminated glass jars filled with translucent oil. The jars themselves hang from the ceiling of a darkened room. Each specimen whirls in its liquid, emitting chirps and snippets of song that stop the moment a visitor approaches.

Matthew Ritchie does complex drawings based on the Big Bang Theory, **Catherine Chalmers'** large photographs set in motion a four-step food chain in her apartment and then photos the resulting cycle of caterpillars eating a tomato, then they are eaten by a praying mantis, which mates with—and is devoured by—a