

FROM THE EDITOR

Well, it's been quite a few months, packed full of so many natural and man-made phenomena that we never have a chance to catch our breath. But \$100 million donated to Poetry magazine certainly made me jealous—hope they spread the money around to individual poets. They deserve grants, but oh, so much money for one magazine!

This is the last issue of the 25th volume, which means we are starting our 25th year in 2003. You will be seeing lots of stickers on your mail from me, since that's the way I celebrate with you. No increase in subscriptions, no parties or outright expensive celebrations, just better issues of Umbrella with *color covers*, so if any of you have images that seem worthy of note, send them on a disk for an eventual cover or even back (half) cover. My printer is willing to collaborate with me, so an innovation for our 25th! And thank you to those who have subscribed early. Now it's up to the rest of you to RENEW!

There is one celebration that you must read on the next page—it's an auction to help my collection at the UCLA Arts Library get processed, preserved, and disseminated to scholars and the artist book community. Then we can sponsor events, exhibitions, and symposia, and perhaps the largest public collection on the West Coast can finally be used at the UCLA Arts Library. So send in your works of art for auction, if you so feel inclined. It will raise money for a good cause!

By the way, it still seems that it takes so very much time to find the news that's fit to print in Umbrella—please don't hesitate to send any or all news about artist books, mail art, or whatever to me. Secondary sources are the majority of my news sources, but I could use direct contact with you, who make the news! When I start writing Umbrella which is many weeks before you get it, it seems that there are so few exhibits of artist books, so few mail art notices, but they grow like Topsy, and it just means a great deal of writing for me. And if you don't know, I'm not getting any younger. I do this as if it were a long letter to my friends, but I have hundreds of "friends", I guess. There still is too much news and too much to read, but if I can help you all digest a bit of what passes through my hands, so be it.

Since it really is the end of the year, I want you to know that a subscription to Umbrella to a colleague or friend would help a great deal to guarantee another year for Umbrella. As I tell you this, I do not foresee another 25 years, and

frankly with the demise of some of the leading magazines in our midst, I feel very fortunate to have endured this quarter of a century. But one of these days, I will indeed just give the news away and go online, even though the libraries want hard copy. It's not so much the cost, it's the immediacy of the news. I could always change once a week or once a month and get you the news that is necessary to move through the artist book community and the contemporary art community with knowledge.

It's movie marathon time for me, since I go to movies a lot, and at the end of the year, the Academy Awards allows us in Lalaland to see all the news ones for consideration by the Academy. *Frida* is one to see even with its omissions, and don't forget to see Phillip Noyce's *The Quiet American* and his amazing *Rabbit-Proof Fence*. *Pinocchio* will definitely be a must from Christmas Day on!

By the way, the best title for an exhibition this year: *20 million Mexicans can't be wrong!*, curated by art critic, curator and art historian, Cuahtemoc Medina, soon to be adjunct curator (the first one) for Latin American art for the Tate. Just amazing!

I wish you all the Happiest of New Years, and may we have Peace—so don't sit back and wait for everyone else to do something about it. Join a movement, use your resources and your energies to stop war. It's one way we all can continue to support the arts, be creative, and produce something that is far more than material, but something that moves the soul!

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