

## PROFILE: arts resource and information center, minneapolis

The Arts Resource and Information Center is a community service providing information to the public on the visual, performing and literary arts activities in the Twin Cities area. Services include information on the arts activities of over 750 organizations, a daily calendar of community arts events, information on speakers and lecture/demonstrations listing art classes in the Metropolitan area, job information and publications on many topics.

Founded in 1974 and as far as the staff is concerned, the oldest arts information center in the country, they now have a paid staff of 2½ and close to 50 volunteers who staff the desk and answer the phones.

In 1977, for instance, they answered the questions of over 35,000 people and reached countless others through their publications. Called the "nerve center of the Institute," ARIC answers from 60 to 80 inquiries in an afternoon and maintains a large information system covering arts activities and programs of over 750 organizations.

In addition to working with information and referral, the ARIC staff works closely with the Institute staff, circulating slide packages, suitcase exhibitions, teaching units and other special materials and aids upon request to classes, community groups and other interested individuals.

The Center was originated by the Junior League, and initially coordinated children's art activities, but now, it truly remains the center hub of all arts activities. Among its other projects is a Teacher Resource Center. Although public school systems usually have their own resource centers, the center's Teacher Resource Center is unique because it makes available the "real thing"—small and larger exhibitions of artwork with display cases, which the teachers may rent. Even larger mobile exhibitions are available for rental for whole school systems. In addition, a speakers' bureau is maintained by the center, utilized by the whole community.

Some of the publications issued by the Arts Resource and Information Center include *Non-Profit Arts Organizations in Minnesota*, *Twin Cities Service Organizations for the Arts*, *Exhibition and Performing Spaces in the Twin Cities*, and *Twin Cities Art Fairs 1978*.

Just by calling 870-3131 in the Twin Cities area, you can get almost any kind of information on the art scene. Guided by coordinator, Sandy Oakes, and Arts Resource Center assistant, Julie Hout Hoell, the Center has established quite a reputation and expansion looks promising. The address is ARIC, the Minneapolis Institute of Art, 201 E. 24th St., Minneapolis, MN 55404.

### EXHIBITIONS & COMPETITIONS

**First Biennial Post-Bicentennial Potato Postcard Competition, 4 July 1979.** Open: U.S. and Canada. Specifications: Maximum size 3½ x 5½ inches, made of, printed by, and/or about potatoes. Jurors: Jim Romberg, Ellen Manchester, Dr. James Belson, Connor Everts. Awards: \$25, potato pin, potato T-shirt, 25 pounds of potatoes. No fee. All entries become property of the Potato Gallery. **Deadline: 4 July 1979 postmark.** Send to D. W. Wharton, Graphics Dir., Sun Valley Center for the Arts & Humanities, Box 656, Sun Valley, ID 83353.

**Banana Belt Show:** First Annual Postal Art. Subject: self-portrait of the artist as banana. All entries exhibited; no returns; no prizes. Mail works to Lewis-Clark State College Art Dept., Attn.: Corlis/Duffey, Lewiston, Idaho 83501.

**Photobooth Show.** Media: strip of four or other photobooth photos. **Deadline: 10 March 1979.** Submit work with return postage to Blue Sky, 117 NW 5th Ave., Portland, OR 97209.

**O.K. Magazine** seeks Xerox Art for publication; all contributions to become the property of O.K. Magazine; work will not be returned. Contact Nihilist Press, 10350½ Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90024.

**Mail Art.** All artists and others active in this field are invited to submit samples of, descriptions of, and/or information about their work for inclusion in the exhibition. All material will be published in book form. Studio 46, Piergiorgio Firinu, Via Maria Vittoria 46, 10123 Torino, Italy. A special permanent section dedicated to Mail Art will be included in the gallery.

**Center/Gallery—International Postal Art Exhibition.** Jan. 15 through Feb. 15, 1979. Chapel Hill, NC. Send entries to Rosie Thompson, Exhib. Chair., Rt. 4, Box 485-E, Hillsborough, NC 27278.

**Electronic Editions.** February 1979. San Jose, CA. Audio or Video multiples, produced by California artists, sought for exhibition. **Deadline: 2 February.** Contact Union Gallery, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA 95192. (408)277-3221.

**Route 66 International Postal Art Show.** February 4 - March 3, 1979. Downtown Center for the Arts, 216 Central Ave., SW, Albuquerque. Non-juried; all works accepted; no returns; scenic views. **Deadline: 31 Jan. 1979.** Mail work to Transient/66 Show, Box 4662, Albuquerque, NM 87196.