

NEWS AND NOTES

Britain's official war artist, John Keane, has been sent into the Persian Gulf armed with sketchbook and camera. He received a \$19,000 commission from the Imperial War Museum in London to go to the gulf and add to the museum's collection of 12,000 war paintings.

CENSORSHIP ON THE WING

An Ontario artist who taught Canada geese to fly in formation with ultralight aircraft has been forced to sign an agreement by the Canadian Wildlife Service to stop taking geese and other waterfowl up into the air lanes, or his geese (18 of them) will be confiscated.

Bill Lishman and a colleague, Canadian nature-lover Bill Carrick, had hoped to use ultralight aircraft to teach rare trumpeter swans to migrate south for the winter, something trumpeters are believed to have done once but which they ceased doing after the arrival of Europeans and gunpowder in North America nearly wiped them out.

To avoid confiscation of his geese, Lishman is said to have moved the birds to an undisclosed marshland where the owner has a valid avicultural permit.

San Francisco photographer, Jock Sturges, was shocked in May to find his studio raided by the FBI. Sturges is known for his black-and-white portraits of families in the nude. His work was confiscated in an investigation of child pornography, setting off a storm of charges of government censorship.

He has demanded the return of thousands of photographs and other property held for seven months while the government decided whether to charge him with child pornography. Police have returned some of the material but turned the rest over to the U.S. Attorney's office.

It now has been seven months that they have held the 100,000 negatives and numerous other items.

Three foot-tall sculptures of nude women on display at Dallas city hall are being covered with fake fig leaves, because a bureaucrat thought they were shocking. Lubbock artist Future Akins says the city's reaction to his work, *Getting Better Ain't Always Easy* was "silly and kind of sad...I can't see in my wildest imagination how these pieces would be offensive to anybody." Yvonne Washington, an

official with the city's Park and Recreation Department, said she received no complaints about the art but "there may be some questions raised" by residents about the figures.

LOST & FOUND

Greece bought 3 Cycladic artworks from a private dealer before the sale of a large group by Sotheby's of London. With the sale of the three items, Greek Government withdrew its claim to 40 other Cycladic marble and pottery objects.

Lost: The Deux Chevaux automobile, a favorite of artists and writers for the past 43 years, is gone forever, discontinued by Citroen of France.

Lost: Little Red Riding Hood with illustrations by Trina Schart Hyman, distributed by Houghton-Mifflin, has been eliminated by the Culver City (CA) school system because our heroine is shown with a bottle of wine tucked among the goodies for her grandma. We don't want the kids to get any bad ideas about substance abuse, do we?

Found: The equestrian statue of Marcus Aurelius, Rome's philosopher-emperor of the second century, was back on the Capitoline Hill in Rome after a nine-year absence for study and cleaning. To the dismay of the public, however, it is now in a pollution-proof enclosure.

Found: The remarkable exhibition of Italian Renaissance frames that can be seen through January 6 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

Found: Two decorative medallions, one by Masaccio and the other by Masolino, uncovered in the restoration of the Brancacci Chapel in Florence, Italy.

Found: A recent excavation in China has discovered a Han tomb and ancient "men of mud".

Saved: A hip hotel's underwater mural in San Francisco has been saved from swimming safety laws requiring pool bottoms to be solid white. The "aquamural" full of colors and curlicues by Francis Forlenza, owner of San Francisco's Phoenix Inn, has been saved, representing a victory for art and a defeat for fuddy-duddies the world over. Likewise, in 1988, California lawmakers spared a pool painting done by David Hockney at the Hollywood-Roosevelt Hotel in Hollywood.

Found: Two manuscripts from the Quedlinburg treasures, missing since the closing days of World War II in Europe, have been returned to Germany by an anonymous collector. The manuscripts were held in the Dallas Museum of Art, placed by court order there last summer, after lawyers for the Lutheran church of Quedlinburg filed suit in Federal District Court in Dallas seeking the return of the artworks, which had been the property of the church for centuries. The binding encrusted with gold, silver and jewels of the 1513 manuscript may be the only existing metalwork binding from the 15th or 16th centuries.

Lost: At least 20 artworks worth millions of dollars, including paintings by Picasso, Renoir and Degas, were stolen by thieves in Nice in September. The apartment, owned by Jacques Schwarz-Fuchs, a retired member of the Council of State, was invaded by the thieves through a balcony window after lowering themselves by rope from the roof.

Lost: Paintings were stolen from three museums in Paris in July, including a Renoir cut out of its frame at the Louvre, over a span of several hours. The museums were the Eugene Delacroix, Gustave Moreau, Jean-Jacques Henner, Hebert and Ennery museums.

Found: French police recovered five masterpieces stolen from Paris museums this summer, including a small work by Renoir. Police arrested a 21 year old man and said he confessed to stealing the paintings and a small 15th-century statue. They said he also had stolen a 1470 portrait by Italian painter Lazzaro Bastiani from a Venice museum a week before he was apprehended. He led police to Lyon, where the works were recovered, including Renoir's "Portrait of a seated Woman" cut from its frame at the Louvre on July 4 during visiting hours.

Found: Investigators have found a previously unknown painting by the Spanish artist Francisco Goya mistakenly stored as the work of a minor artist in the Buenos Aires Fine Arts Museum. "Bullfighter Jose Romero," measuring about 35 x 30 inches, had been stored among 7,500 other works in a storage room. The previous uncataloged painting, which he estimated is worth about \$6 million, had been donated to the museum by a collector in 1974 and identified as the work of Luis Osorio, a minor painter.

Lost: A J.M.W. Turner and a painting by Michele Marieschi of the 18th c. were

stolen from a London apartment in November.

Lost: Two paintings by Roy Lichtenstein and James Rosenquist were slashed in Paris at FIAC at the Castelli Gallery stand. The paintings were on exhibit, when a man slashed one of them with a knife and ran off, while another man slashed the other painting. The suspects were arrested and charged with destruction of property. They issued a statement condemning "American imperialism" and the art world. The repair will not be perfect, according to the Gallery.

MUSEUM NEWS

The Guggenheim Museum has a new design for the annex it has proposed for its Frank Lloyd Wright building. Opposition has been widespread against the new proposal which is intended to increase the heights of interior galleries, resulting in the marked expansion of the current window treatment.

Museum of Installation (MOI), first of its kind in Europe, opened on 6 November in London at 33 Great Sutton St. It will exhibit work of a site-specific nature, and form a permanent collection of "ideas, images and texts."

The Armand Hammer Museum has opened in Westwood, Los Angeles, with an exhibition of Malevich.

The Brooklyn Museum showed an exhibition, "The Brooklyn Museum Collection: The Play of the unmentionable" Funded in part by the NEA, this exhibition shows nude children, embracing lesbians and homoerotic paintings from their collection, in response to what they call the current climate of censorship. Robert Mapplethorpe's photographs were also included in this exhibition.

CAR ART

Art Car '90 is an exhibition at the BMW Gallery in New York City (Park and 51st, if you're going to visit). The exhibition opened in October and continuing through January 1991 includes five cars painted by 5 artists, Calder, Stella, Lichtenstein, Warhol and Dine.

BOOK NEWS

Random House has announced a series of "smelly books", edited by Sheila Pickles, the managing director of a London perfumery. The books are scented according to their

subject matter. For example, a book about Christmas is spiced with cloves and cinnamon.

The books are made under a trade secret, but the London publishing house that produces the anthologies has revealed that the all-natural scent was in the ink, printed in Hong Kong. Aldous Huxley was right--first the smellies, then the feelies.

PHOTOGRAPHY

A photo by Man Ray of a pair of brushes floating above a lighted candle was sold at auction recently for \$126,500, a record price for a single photograph, according to Christie's. The gelatin silver print entitled "Rayograph" was purchased by an unidentified buyer.

BRITISH ARTS COUNCIL

The British government (under Thatcher before she left) announced an 11% increase in government support for the arts in 1991, as well as the establishment of a new arts fund. The British Arts Council will get \$379 million next year, an increase of \$37 million over this year.

TRACKING PICASSO

The State Department and the FBI kept a lengthy secret file on Pablo Picasso, even though the Spanish-born artist lived most of his life in France and never visited the U.S., according to the New York Times. A file on the prolific painter-sculptor was kept for about 25 years and continues to be maintained at FBI headquarters in Washington, despite Picasso's death 17 years ago at the age of 91. The file labels Picasso as "Security Matter--C" (for Communist) and as a possible "subversive", a threat to the security and welfare of the U.S. The newspaper said that an analysis of the 187-page Picasso file showed no evidence to support the allegations, although the artist did join the French Communist Party in 1944.

THE NEA STORY

A Lost and Found narrative--sometimes you get it, sometimes you don't. After four artists were denied grants by the NEA, thanks to its director, John E. Frohnmayer, months later, Karen Finley and Holly Hughes were re-recommended for grants, while Tim Miller and John Fleck were awarded grants not directly through the NEA, but through the Los Angeles Theater Center. The whole world is mad--especially the art world and its funding.

NEW PERIODICALS

From Australia is a new bi-annual publication produced by the Visual Arts/Craft Board of the Australia Council. The first issue covers the new art magazines in Australia, Roby Backen's Bakelite jewellery, aboriginal art and its market, a profile on Ken Unsworth, an essay on the Performance Space in Sydney, and much more. Well written, beautifully designed, this is an important mirror of the visual arts in a country which is so far away but so vitally involved in developing its own culture. A list of all the public galleries and art museums of Australia is included. This twice-a-year publication is distributed free to curators, critics, writers and gallery dealers, to funding bodies and government arts organizations, and through the Embassies and High Commissions of Australia.

XYR, a publication of the Tribes of XYR, is edited by Robert Perine and distributed by ARTRA Publishing, Inc., P.O. Box 575, Encinitas, CA 92024. One wonders whether this publication is on the level, but it is so beautifully produced (on the computer) with superb visuals that we must take it as a fantasy publication well met. The October issue was dedicated to Valitone. The next issue will be about Phin and the Malbinolits. Copies of the complete story, Descent into XYR, may be obtained by sending \$15 plus \$1.40 postage to ARTRA Publishing Inc., Box 575, Encinitas, CA 92024.

Art Line Magazine is a British bimonthly which offers a range of exciting supplements and reader participation projects, including a newspaper of informed opinion, called artissues (quarterly) as well as artBOOKNEWS (a quarterly), which does what it says it does, covers the art book world. artBOOKNEWS covers everything from printing processes to the latest book on Jackson Pollock and lots of book reviews. The book paper and the news paper are on newsprint, while the magazine is on glossy stock. An occasional A4 color magazine featuring indepth artist profiles is also slated.

For the UK, the rate is 22.00, for Europe, 25.00 and for the USA and Australasia, 38.00 by air. Write to Art Line, AGP Newspapers, Ltd., Producton House, 3 Garratt Lane, London SW18 4AQ. Right now I believe this is quite an enterprise. It's hard to start a new magazine these days and see it through, but we hope this one works. It combines the Journal of Art with Artnews, is well written and clearly designed.

Reactor Girl is a fledgling mini comic being published by Extra Small Press,

which is also being launched with this comic. All they want to do is cover their printing costs, because the endeavor is dedicated to its artists, to its writers and to its readers. The variety is wild, the plea is out to send stuff to Extra Small Press, c/o Michel Vrana, 14 Sullivan St. #2, Toronto, Ont. M5T 1B9, Canada, att.: Reactor Girl.

ART IN THE MALL

At the end of September one of Piccadilly's (London) giant computer-controlled screens carried, every few minutes, the message "This is your Messiah speaking, instructive you to shop. Don't worry. No one will force you to do anything you don't want to do..." The work was by Vera Frenkel, Canadian interdisciplinary artist who has been struck by England's zealous adoption of international shopping mall culture, and was sponsored and funded by Artangel. She has recently done a public art piece in London, Ontario, Canada, having won a most prestigious award (similar to a MacArthur) in Canada.

American Council for the Arts, the new hotline is billed as a referral service in which library staffers "match caller interests with a database of information resources." The hotline was dreamed up by the Sharpe foundation's artist advisory committee, some of whom are Janet Fish, Chuck Close, Robert Storr and Irving Sandler, and is designed especially for more isolated artists not plugged in to already-existing networks. The service operates Monday - Friday from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. EST. Call 1-800-232-2789.

FLUXUS NEWS

An exhibition of Fluxus was presented at the Hovikodden Kunstsenter in Norway from 10 March - 22 April 1990. A checklist is available from Sonja Heniesvei 31, 1311 Hovikodden, Norway.

INSERTS

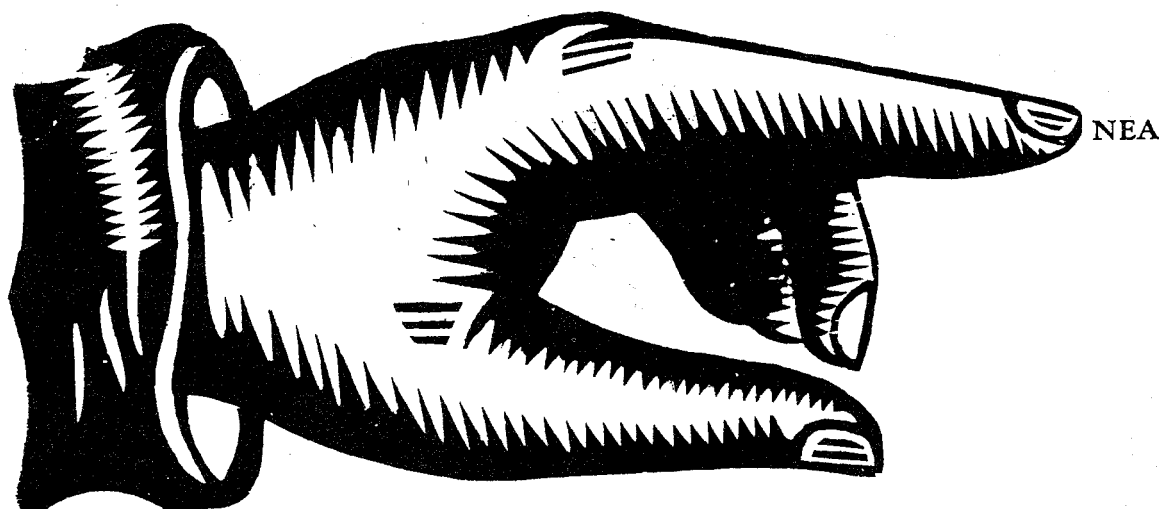
The Women's Studio Workshop in Rosendale, New York has sponsored a series called, Inserts, which is inserted in a regular newspaper, such as Woodstock Times. Sharon Gilbert recently participated with an insert called "More is Less, More or Less" in the newspaper for 19 October 1990.

TASTE: Yours and Theirs

L.A. Magazine named "Ballerina Clown", the bearded ballerina in tutu above the entrance of a Venice, California restaurant by Jonathan Borofsky L.A.'s "worst public sculpture." De gustibus!

ARTS HOTLINE

Artists seeking information about grants, art law, housing, insurance and other professional matters can now call the Arts Resource Consortium Library toll-free from anywhere in the country with their questions. Funded by \$33,500 from the Sharpe Art Foundation in Colorado Springs and administered by the



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IT'S TIME TO RENEW



From L by Eric Drooker (see inside for review)

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