

# circulaire

Zine d'art postal, d'art posté et d'art en général...

## Nouveau livre sur l'art postal – MAIL ME ART

Nouveau livre paru récemment sur l'art postal. C'est plutôt la documentation d'un projet lancé par l'artiste britannique Darren Di Lieto à des artistes oeuvrant dans les milieux du design, illustration et bande dessinées. Surtout issus du milieu "underground" les pièces illustrées dans ce livre sont plutôt réussites et sont du point de vue visuelles très intéressantes. Vittore Baroni s commenté ce livre sur le site de Di Lieto et voici le texte intégral original.

Vous pouvez consulter le site de Mail Me Art à l'adresse suivante.

Il est à noter qu'un nouveau projet similaire vient d'être lancé pour un deuxième livre.

[http://www.facebook.com/ext/share.php?sid=182863440712&h=yksW1&u=4oP\\_e](http://www.facebook.com/ext/share.php?sid=182863440712&h=yksW1&u=4oP_e)

Rich in images, poor in mail art history, 1 April 2009

By Vittore Baroni

I have been involved in the international network of mail art, as a practising author and chronicler, for over three decades, so I have the habit of checking periodically the Internet to see if any new book on the subject has appeared. I had Di Lieto's Mail Me Art in pre-order long before the publication date, and I had visited the author's website, the Little

Chimp Society, so I knew beforehand more or less what to expect. The book is not disappointing at all in its visual contents, since it permits to see what a specific group of authors - illustrators and designers, mostly young and at the start of their career - is able to devise when confronted with the request to regard the surface of an envelope or package as an empty page, and then drop their completed artwork into a mailbox. A few items designed by children or by more traditionally oriented illustrators are mixed here with a colourful variety of images drawing inspiration from the language of comics, from the bold world of Pop Surrealism, the doodles and tags of street art, the cute characters of toy art. With only an handful of established "big names" in sight, these are by no means "the world's best illustrators and designers", as the cover promises, yet the selection is varied and exuberant. It is particularly interesting and amusing to see how each artist has solved the challenge to incorporate the postage stamps, the address and other postal insignia into their piece.

What in the book is really conspicuous by its absence, though, is any real knowledge of over forty years of mail art activities. Even if art by correspondence remains an underestimated and underground art phenomenon, it has been nevertheless documented in thousands of catalogues, art magazines, books, articles (see John Held Jr.'s *Mail Art: An Annotated Bibliography*, The Scarecrow Press, 1991), and also in many web sites. You simply cannot sweep the complex history of correspondence art under the carpet. If Di Lieto had made the effort of a little research into the tradition (and the present) of mail art, he would not have come up with such an inaccurate piece of information as when he states that "unlike regular mail, there is often nothing inside (a mail art envelope)": quite the opposite is true! Since Di Lieto name-drops in his introduction "the late pop artist Ray Johnson, who is often considered the father of the (mail art) movement", he cannot plead complete ignorance. With a little insight into the motivations that lie behind the growth of a planetary "eternal network" of creative correspondents, still involving today hundreds of postal networkers, the author would have found out, for instance, that mail art is traditionally considered "a gift" and not something in need of a price tag (as he requests in his interviews to the participating authors).

The global mail art community is not restricted only to illustrators and graphic designers, but also includes painters, sculptors, performers, poets, novelists, musicians, filmmakers, philosophers, mad scientists, amateurs and people from all walks of life. The aim of mail art is not (only) to produce spectacular images on envelopes. In actual fact, the medium usually tackles a broad range of counter-cultural, social, ecological and utopian issues: as an introduction to mail art theory and practices, see *Networked Art* by Craig J. Saper (University of Minnesota Press, 2001) and the collection of essays *At a Distance: Precursors to Art and Activism on the Internet* (The MIT Press, 2005). Mail art works are rarely "art for art's sake", they tend to be part of an ongoing collective dialogue, a process of open, free, anti-hierarchical and interactive communication that long predates the so called "social networks" of the Web 2.0.

Only an handful of works reproduced in Mail Me Art deal with the concepts of communication and postal transmission, even these in a rather shy and mild way. We do not see attempts at challenging the postal medium (for example, by using fake "artist's stamps"), or at projecting art statements that go much beyond the sheer demonstration of wit and pictorial prowess. Above all, these nice pieces of postal art do not attempt to become part of a networking process by requesting in some way a feedback from the receiver, they are "finished" and ready to be framed (though Di Lieto also proposes to buy them and forward them to a new addressee).

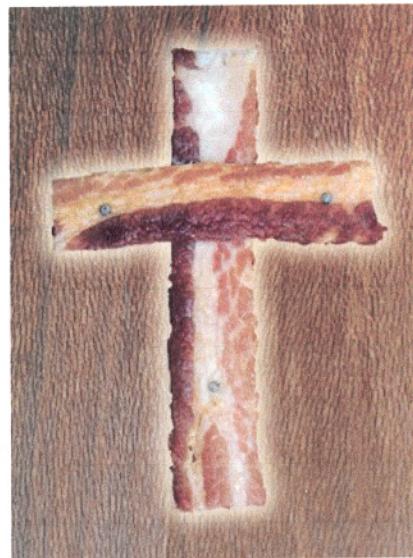
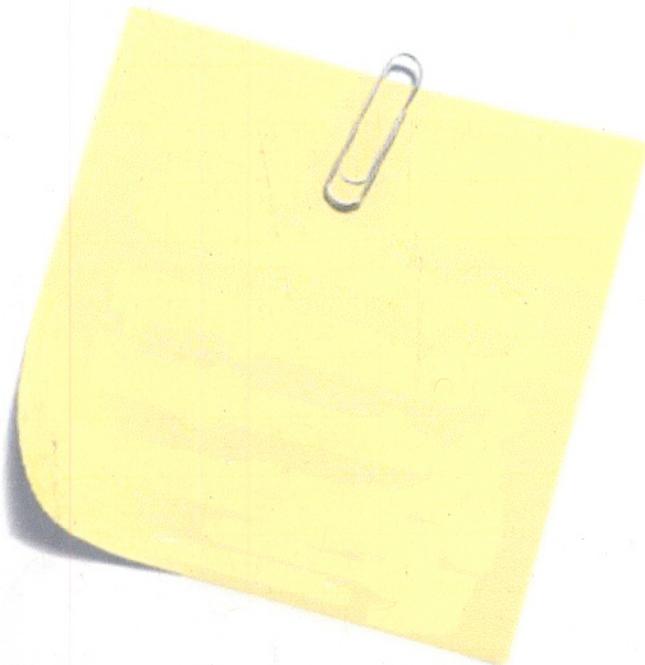
In the broader context of the history of correspondence art, Mail Me Art (with its online companion website) is therefore an interesting project, but only shows one side of the multifaceted mail art phenomenon. A few lines of clarification in the introduction would have been sufficient to place the book in a more correct perspective (since Di Lieto's website promises a second book, he will have a chance to set the records straight!). All this said, and partially in defence of the author, most books on mail art are no more in print or are rather difficult to find, though Internet offers huge reference sites like the Artpool Archive or Ruud Janssen's TAM. I still find it amazing that more books are available in the English language about niche phenomenons like ATCs (Artist's Trading Cards), that developed in recent years from the mail art milieu, rather than about the history of mail art itself. It is a gap in the book market that begs to be filled, the sooner the better (but of course, this is another story).



Couverture du livre Mail Me Art



## **Message au destinataire:**



### **Praise the Lard!**

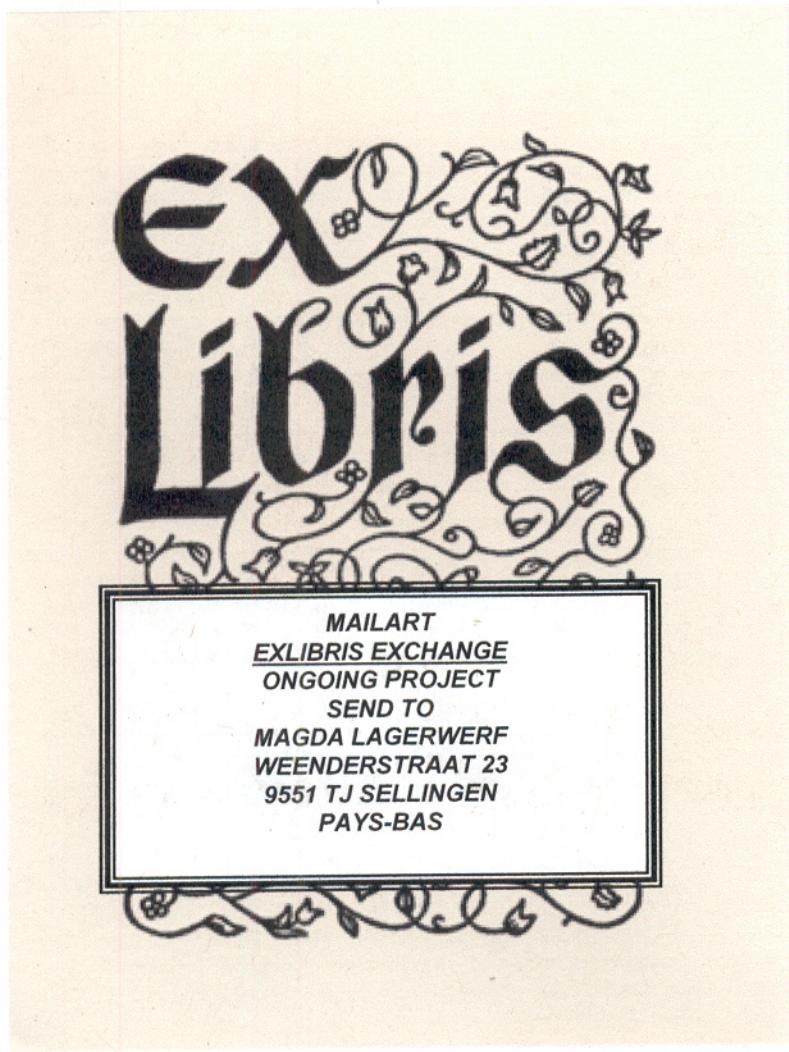
An Open Mail Art Call  
**BACON!**

All art must feature bacon. **Anything** goes. Video, sound work, 2-D, 3-D, poetry; surprise me, shock me, make me sizzle, raise my cholesterol. All art shown on this blog. Exhibition(s) to follow. A short film about bacon will include much of the received art. Deadline is 04/01/2010.

Send art to:

**BACON!**  
Scott Ray Randall  
21294 Leslie Drive  
Grass Valley, CA 95945 , USA

<http://www.baconmovie.blogspot.com/>



### **Dear Diary Mail Art Call!**

**Topic: DEAR DIARY**  
**Any Size, Any Medium**  
**Returns and Documentation to all**  
Send your diary pages, journalling, postcards  
--anything on the theme  
There will be a show at Gail Borden Library  
Deadline is August 1, 2009

**Send to: Dear Diary Mail Art Project**  
407 South Liberty Street Elgin IL 60120



Canada Post  
Postes Canada

**INTERIM RECEIPT**

REGISTRATION

AMOUNT OF  
POSTAGE  
(INCLUDING  
FEE) PREPAID

c.

INSURED PARCEL

DECLARED  
VALUE

\$

SENDER  
EXPÉDITEUR

**RÉCÉPISSÉ PROVISOIRE**

MONTANT DU  
PORT PAYÉ Y  
COMPRIS LE  
DROIT

RECOMMANDATION

VALEUR  
DÉCLARÉE

COLIS ASSURÉ

R.R. NO.

NO.

DATE

COURIER  
RURAL

iles ou périsposables ne sont  
pas assurés contre l'avarie

INITIAL À L'EXPÉDITEUR,  
USQU'À CE QU'IL REÇOIVE  
LE RÉCÉPISSÉ OFFICIEL À  
CAS DE RÉCLAMATION. LE  
FACTEUR RURAL GARDE UN AN LE DUPLI-  
CATA SIGNÉ PAR LE MAÎTRE DE POSTE.

BE KEPT BY COURIER FOR ONE YEAR.  
33-86-176 (7-73)

FACTEUR RURAL GARDE UN AN LE DUPLI-  
CATA SIGNÉ PAR LE MAÎTRE DE POSTE.

Un œuvre de : Réjean François Côté, 12465 Avenue De Troyes, Québec, QC, G2A 3C9, CANADA

Niels Niels garris  
Niels Niels garris  
Niels Niels garris  
Niels Niels garris  
Lars Lars Niels

Un timbre d'artiste de:  
Roland Halbritter, Muehlweg  
15, 97720, Nuedlingen,  
ALLEMAGNE

Un timbre d'artiste de: Éric  
Bensidon, 14 rue Sauffroy,  
75017, Paris, FRANCE



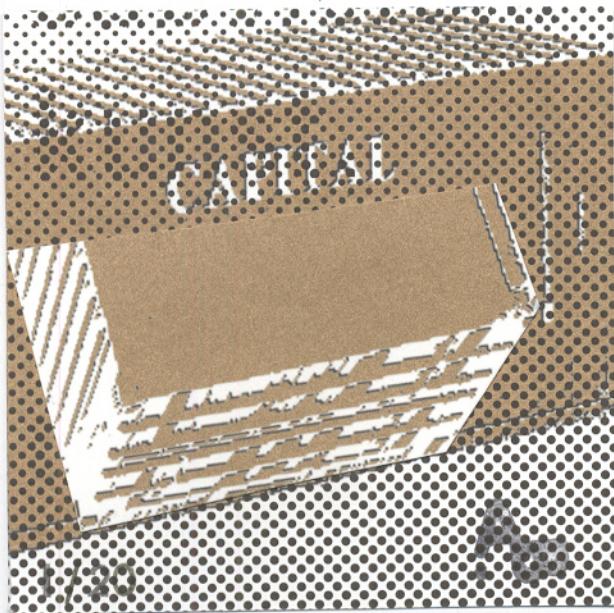
Un ATC de : François Frisch, B.P. 61, L-7201,  
Bereldange, LUXEMBOURG



Un ATC de (et le timbre d'artiste à la page 8) :  
Ed Giecek, 4222-176th Place NE, Arlington,  
WA, 98223, USA



Un timbre d'artiste de:  
Bruno Chiarlone, P.O.  
Box 163, 17014,  
Cairo Montenotte,  
ITALIE



Un 8 cm X 8 cm de: Angela Behrendt, Heidornstrasse 7, 30171, Hannover, ALLEMAGNE



Un 8 cm X 8 cm de: Christian Alle, 9 rue du Pré de la Mer, 50460, Urville-Nacqueville, FRANCE



Un timbre d'artiste de: Giovanni StraDaDa Ravenna, C.P. 271, 48100, Ravenna, ITALIE



Un timbre d'artiste de: Miguel Jimenez, El Taller de Zenon, C/Santa Maria de Guia 1-4oC, 41008, Sevilla, ESPAGNE



Une œuvre de: Éric Bensidon, 14 rue Sauffroy, 75017, Paris, FRANCE

# PROJETS....

Open for submissions!  
**MAIL ME ART!!!**

The address for all entries is:

Mail Me Art  
37 Thames Court  
Victoria Avenue  
West Molesey  
Surrey KT8 1TP  
United Kingdom



Information about the project is available here

[http://www.facebook.com/ext/share.php?sid=182863440712&h=yksW1&u=4oP\\_e](http://www.facebook.com/ext/share.php?sid=182863440712&h=yksW1&u=4oP_e)

Contact: [darren@mailmeart.com](mailto:darren@mailmeart.com)  
if you need further details.

## Art Call – DAVID ZACK

Please send "Mail Art" re- is the great mail artist David Zack really in the spirit world... all works will be posted at:  
<http://www.medwolf.blogspot.com/>

Project is on going,no fee,no jury,no returns and the theme is "Zack Sightings"....if you know some one who looks like Zack then send me a pic,create a pic,become a pic etc etc...Some have said that Zack was a shape-shifter and may still walk among us not in human form but as an animal or bird.. Send mail to:

Zack Sightings  
c/o Medwolf~PO Box 2174  
Battleford, SK  
S0M 0E0, CANADA

I will send something back..

### The David Zack Show

The David Zack Show opened at The New Gallery (TNG) in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, October 10, 2008. It is a retrospective / commemorative installation of Zack's work mostly focusing on the 70's and 80's. The show is based on Istvan Kantor's archival collection extended with contributions from many other artists, he is still collecting material... A book/catalog will be published after the TNG show therefore it will include details of the installation together with essays and additional information and visuals... The exhibition will travel across Canada in 2009/2010 and hopefully it will also get to the US, Europe, Asia and elsewhere... All mail art sent to me for "Zack Sightings" will be part of the next David Zack show in 2009..(place and time soon to be posted).



Pour consulter tous les précédents numéros de CIRCULAIRE132 voir le blogalerie suivant:

To consult all CIRCULAIRE132 previous issues, go to the following blogallery:

<http://circulaire132.blogspot.com>

## Mail Art : "X-ray of Fear"

The Library of the Educational Sciences Faculty (University of A Coruña), in collaboration with the Central Library of the Pontevedra Campus (University of Vigo), invites all artists, home or abroad, to take part in this Mail Art Call.

### Guidelines

Topic: " X-ray of Fear ".

### Technical requirements:

- Size: postal size 20x10 cm.
- Paper or any other bidimensional support.
- Free technique.
- Send by ordinary mail (no envelope required).
- Maximum two proposals per artist.

Deadline: July 30<sup>th</sup> 2009

Two exhibitions in 2009-2010:

- Library of the Educational Sciences Faculty (University of A Coruña).  
Central Library, Campus of Pontevedra (Universidade de Vigo).

Virtual exhibition included.

All participants will receive confirmation. Senders must include their e-mail.

Artistic proposals will not be returned. After exhibition, all works will be permanently exhibited in large-mural format in the Library of the Educational Sciences Faculty (Universidade de A Coruña).

Send your proposals to:

Biblioteca Facultade de Ciencias da Educación  
Universidade de A Coruña  
Campus Elviña s/n  
15071 A Coruña.  
Galicia. Spain.

Information and contact:

[mdoval@udc.es](mailto:mdoval@udc.es)

[www.educacion.udc.es/biblioteca](http://www.educacion.udc.es/biblioteca)

## MONTRE-MOI TON RÉSEAU

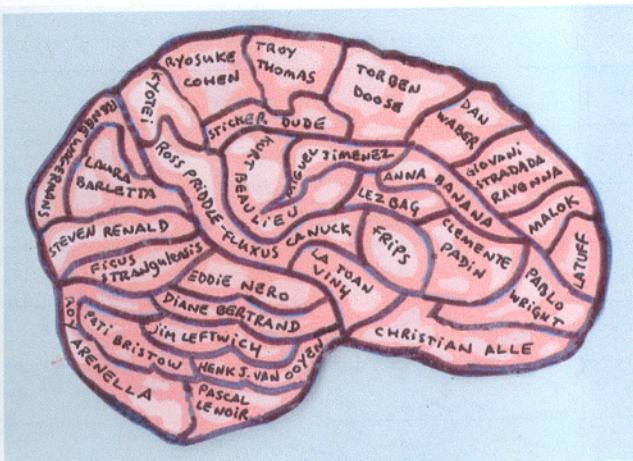
Dans le numéro 4 de la Circulaire132 (juin-juillet 2006), j'avais inséré un carte postale illustrant un cerveau qui permettait aux participants d'inscrire les personnes avec qui elles correspondent régulièrement. Afin de vérifier les changements, progression etc..., je récidive encore une fois.

Toutes les cartes retournées seront publiées dans un prochain numéro de la Circulaire132.

## SHOW ME YOUR NETWORK

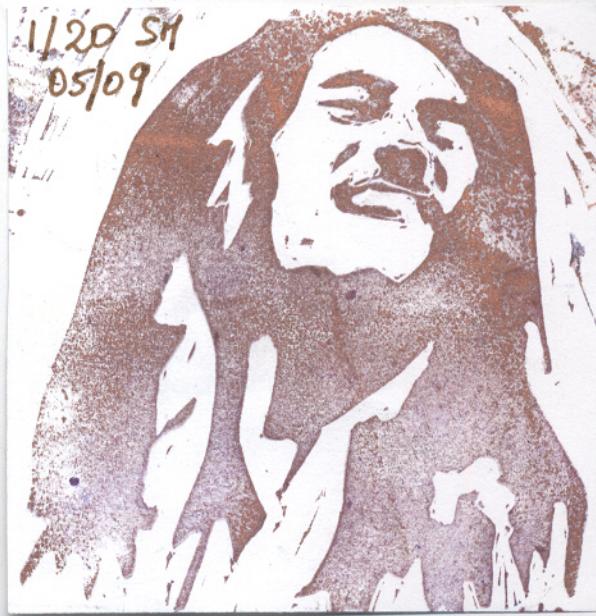
In the CIRCULAIRE132 June-July 2006 issue, I inserted a postcard illustrating a brain in order for participants to fill in the mailartists which they maintain contact with or exchange the most. I will try this exercise again. All received cards will be published in an upcoming issue of CIRCULAIRE132

RFC

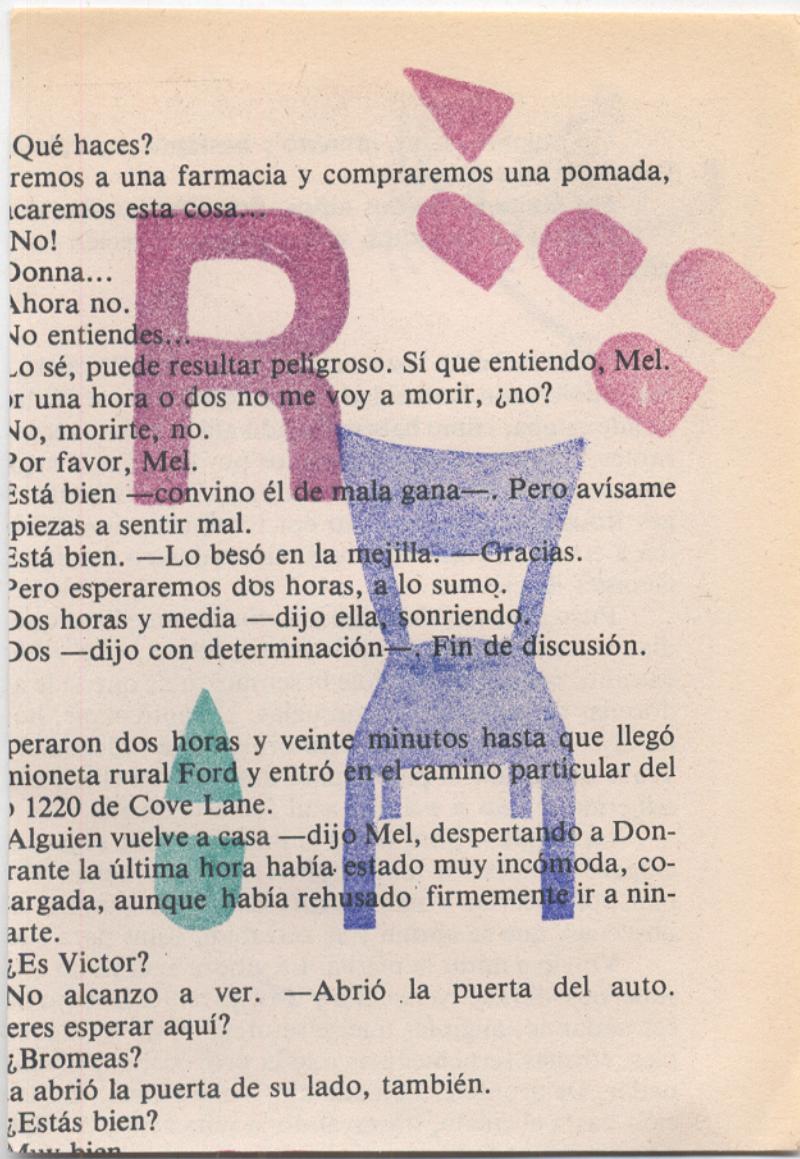




Un 8 cm X 8 cm de: Denis Charmot, 15 rue de Vanne, 74460, Marnaz, FRANCE



Un 8 cm X 8 cm de: Servane Morel, Av. Wellington 4, 1180, Bruxelles, BELGIQUE



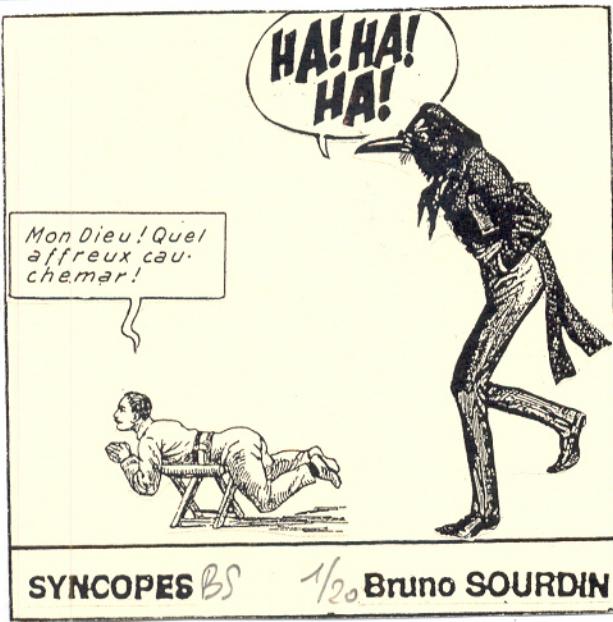
Une œuvre de: Samuel Montalvetti, Av. Rivadavia 2109 1a dto 3, 1034, Buenos Aires, ARGENTINE



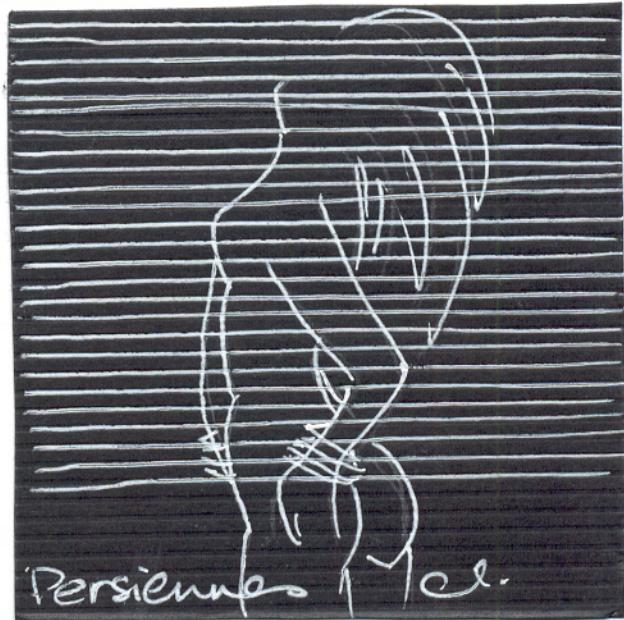
Un timbre d'artiste de: Christian Alle, 9 rue du Pré de la Mer, 50460 Urville-Nacqueville - FRANCE



Une œuvre de: Diana Marshall, 6400 Karlen Road, Rome, NY, 13440, USA



Un 8 cm X 8 cm de: Bruno Sourdin, 147 rue Vieille-Rue, 50000, Saint-Lô, FRANCE



Un 8 cm X 8 cm de: Chantal Laurin, 5114 Dolorès, Rawdon, QC, J0K 1S0, CANADA

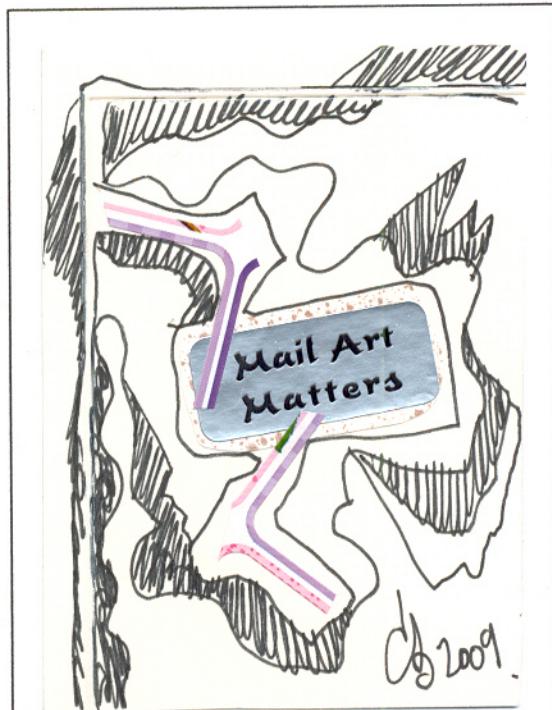


Une œuvre de: Joel The Sticker Dude, 121 Varick Street, New York, NY, 10013, USA

#### Nouvelle adresse / New address



<http://www.libererlesquebecs.com>



Un ATC de: Diane Bertrand, 9109 rue Deschambault, Saint-Léonard, QC, H1R 2C6, CANADA

Mai 2009

No 41

circulaire

CIRCULAIRE 132  
12465 Avenue de Troyes  
Québec, QC, G2A 3C9



Destinataire:

RF COTE  
12465 AVE. DE TROYES  
QUEBEC QC G2A 3C9  
CANADA

Participants:

François Frisch, B.P. 61, L-7201, Bereldange, LUXEMBOURG  
Éric Bensidon, 14 rue Sauffroy, 75017, Paris, FRANCE  
Roland Halbritter, Muehlweg 15, 97720, Nuedlingen, ALLEMAGNE  
Ed Giecek, 4222-176th Place NE, Arlington, WA, 98223, USA  
Christian Alle, 9 rue du Pré de la Mer, 50460, Urville-Nacqueville, FRANCE  
Samuel Montalvetti, Av. Rivadavia 2109 1a dto 3, 1034, Buenos Aires, ARGENTINE  
R.F. Côté, 12465 Avenue De Troyes, Québec, QC, G2A 3C9, CANADA  
Angela Behrendt, Heidornstrasse 7, 30171, Hannover, ALLEMAGNE  
Bruno Chiarlone, P.O. Box 163, 17014, Cairo Montenotte, ITALIE  
Giovanni StraDaDa Ravenna, C.P. 271, 48100, Ravenna, ITALIE  
Servane Morel, Av. Wellington 4, 1180, Bruxelles, BELGIQUE  
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Diane Bertrand, 9109 rue Deschambault, Saint-Léonard, QC, H1R 2C6, CANADA

