RIP JOHN EVANS (1932 – 2012)


The neo-Dadaist and East Village mail artist John Evans made a collage a day from 1964 to 2000, mostly using things he found on the street that day. He embellished each collage with watercolor, and added the image of a duck's head, which he called "Ursuline Duck" in tribute to his friend Ursule Molinaro (1914-2000). These neat, almost architectonic works move from the personal to tales of social and political discontent.

Evans, who was born in 1932 and attended the school of the Art Institute of Chicago before moving to New York, recently displayed a selection of his collages at the Pavel Zoubok Gallery, which has relocated to a storefront space on West 23rd Street in New York's Chelsea art district. The show was accompanied by John Evans: Collages, a lavish book published by the independent Quantuck Lane Press and featuring a year's worth of Evans' "daily mixed-media chromatic explosions.

Like Kurt Schwitters, Evans collected "chance encounter objects" – correspondence with other artists, photobooth self-portraits, clothes labels, business cards, coasters, postage stamps, cigarette packages, maps, ticket stubs, wrappers and rubber stamps. Mail-art debris and mysterious black calling cards from Gypsy Illuminati co-exist with harmonious India-ink washes. Rubber-stamp monkeys appear frequently on Evans' pages. The simple explanation is that he and his wife Margaret were born in the Chinese year of the monkey.

His other rubber stamps include "Avenue B School of Art" (which appears on his business card), "Insufficient DADA," "Save Sex" and images of butterflies and dancing ducks.

In works spanning almost 40 years, we see self-portraits in which the artist's long dark hair turns to white and then disappears from his head only to reappear as a big white mustache. Our transitory throw-away culture is poignantly reflected in the traces of the artist's own biography. Evans' visual diary -- each collage is presented on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper with a stamp of the day's date -- frequently shades over into concrete poetry. The text in one entry, stamped Nov. 13, reads "urgent, real zone, don't even think of poetry here, thirteen, up, caution keep upright, arrow must point to top.«

And though Evans' collage diaries are rather more than commonplace scrapbooks, they do document his own art history, including invites to his exhibitions and reviews of these shows cut out from magazines and newspapers.

The collage dated Mar. 28, 1981, for instance, is a confection of announcements of Evans' show at the New York gallery Cordier & Ekstrom, with the central phrase "The Wild Duck" cut from the New York Times. Another work incorporates an announcement for his show at Gracie Mansion Gallery in the East Village as well as colored ink washes and the ubiquitous Ursuline ducks.

The collage from June 26, 1976, features a short review by Hilton Kramer of one of Evans' shows. Kramer calls his work: "a delightful discovery. These (collages) belong to the world defined by the genius of Joseph Cornell... a world of romantic invention conjured out of odd juxtapositions of weird and familiar things."

Evans was a member of the New York neo-Dada community that included Buster Cleveland, Albert Fine, Ray Johnson and May Wilson. All died prematurely and suddenly. Their images and work occasionally appear in Evans' collages. Some of the other artists to whom Evans pays homage are the Italian collector and Fluxus artist Guglielmo Achille Cavellini (1914-90), the SoHo pioneer George Maciunas (1931-78) and the New York mail artist Ed Higgins.

Some of his more moving collages are dedicated to Evans' friend and neighbor, Tom Wirth, who died in 1987. Wirth brought Evans' work to the attention of Jim Mairs, the publisher of John Evans: Collages. The book features several pages in the book dedicated to Tom and his untimely death. For the book, the publisher chose 364 collages, one for each date of the year (save one) -- spread over Evans' entire oeuvre. The collage of July 14, 1989, for instance, is followed by one from July 15, 1980. And in true diary style, one page is all but blank, bearing the inscription, "Bad Cold + Dreadful Inventory for Rentokil. No Collage."

One of Evans' political collages is Dump Koch for Dinkins, dated Sept. 12, 1989. It includes a picture of Clayton Patterson, the Lower East Side artist and activist who gained local renown when he videotaped a police riot in Tompkins Square Park and subsequently was sentenced to 90 days in jail for civil disobedience. In another one of Evans' social commentaries, a photo of riot-gear cops on Avenue B is complemented by another sticker that says "Defective" and followed by the image of an American flag.

From my personal observation of John's opening at Pavel Zoubok Gallery, his magical "accumulations" -- accumulation-collages -- are a hot property, with hundreds of art-books autographed and sold and collectors snapping up almost 50 original works. May he repeat his success again in another 40-plus years.
Message au destinataire:

Mail Art Invitation
Theme: „IS THAT RIGHT?“
A project by high school students in Mail Art McKee Minden.
Size: Postcard only (10x15 cm), not in an envelope please.
Technique: free, no e-mail-contributions please, and no black&white copies.
Exhibition at the Law Court Gallery
Verwaltungsgericht Minden.
Printed documentation to every participant.
Send to:
Mail Art Project
Ratsgymnasium
Königswall 28
D 32423 Minden Germany

AARPEX 2012
Artistamp Artists Reunion & Philatelic EXposition
Nov. 10, 10:30 am - 5 pm
University House Grand Ballroom,
4400 Stone Way N., Seattle, WA
Organized by <ctchew@earthlink.net>

EXHIBITORS
Jere Smith  Bill Ritchie  Dame Mailarta
Jas Felter  Dixon  Anna Banana
Ed Varney  C T Chew  Robby Rudine
Jack Lattemann  buZ blurr  E.F. Higgins III
Jennie Hinchcliff  Dominique  Marvin Johnson
Steve Smith  Harley  Hamlet Mateo
Kathleen McHugh  Teesha Moore

A number of us exhibited our artistamps at the Davidson Galleries in the 1990s, as the Pacific Northwest Artistamp Collective.

On Sunday, Nov. 11, Dogfish will host the Official Opening of MOA (Museum of artistamps) at 3125 Eastlake Ave. East, Seattle Details: <robertrudie@gmail.com>
It is good for us to be here.
Let's make three tents here:
one for James William Forsyth,
one for John Milton Chivington,
and one for Patrick Edward Connor.

Une œuvre de: Uli Grohmann, Hammer Str. 164, 48153, Münster, ALLEMAGNE

Une œuvre de: Giovanni Strada Da Ravenna, via Odoacre
14, 46100, Ravenna, ITALIE

E.O.N. Post 2012
the eye of the beholder

Un timbre d'artiste de: Vittore Baroni, Via C.
Battisti 339, 55049, Viareggio, ITALIE

Pour consulter tous les précédents numéros
de CIRCULAIRE132 voir le bloglaries suivant:
To consult all CIRCULAIRE132 previous
issues, go to the following bloglary:
http://circulaire132.blogspot.com
Un 8cm x 8cm de: Samuel Montalvetti, Av. Rivadavia 2109, 1a dto 3, 1034, Buenos Aires, ARGENTINE

Un 8cm x 8cm de: Valery Shimansky, P.O. Box 804, Nizhekamsk, Tatarstan, 423578, RUSSIE

Un 8cm x 8cm de: Réjean F. Côté, 12465 avenue De Troyes, Québec, QC, G2A 3C9, CANADA

Une œuvre de: Lubomyr Tymkiv, A/C 9875, Sadivnych 19/1, 79038, Lviv, UKRAINE

Une œuvre de: Henk J. Van Ooyen, Vlinderveen 258, 3205EJ, Spykenisse, PAYS-BAS
Theme: **JANUS**

Janus, the ancient Roman god of beginnings and transitions, is usually depicted as a two-faced god looking both to the future and to the past. He presides over both abstract and concrete beginnings and transitions, thus he is concerned with gates, doors and doorways, bridges, time, the beginning and ending of the year, the sun, the moon, light, and movement.

open format, size, technique - no jury, no fees, no returns documentation sent to participants - some online documentation at: www.LianaSwink.wordpress.com

Deadline: December 30th, 2012 - Exhibition in January!

Please send work on the theme of Janus to:

**Janus/ South Store Cafe**
24485 SW Scholls Fy. Rd.
Hillsboro, OR 97123 - U.S.A.

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**Grupo Toca do Lobo - Mail Art Call**

Convocatório de Arte postal
Projeto Mago - Mage Project

We invite voices to participate in our Project of Postal art
Mago or Magi, plural of the old Persian word maga, meaning as much magic as much as a wise, clever, that they come of the work whose root is "maha" meaning great, and in sanskrit, "mahi" Mago usually denotes that one who practices the magic or ouija; however, I can also denote somebody that possesses knowledge and abilities superior as, for example, when one says that a musician is one "mago of infections" then he touches with perfection the musical instrument.

Subject: Mago
Technique: All examples.
Size: All (in the maximum)
Beginning of the Project: 2010
Ending of the Project: 3/11/2013

Any person can participate.
Artists and any person around the world, sending works with the subject "Mago".
It will not have Jury and the received works will be returned. The works will be catalogued and will be available in blog of the Bureau of the Wolf without commercial value.
Exposition of the works varies in blog official of the Bureau of the Wolf and exposition in public space.
The works can be sent for the address:

**Grupo Toca do Lobo**
R. Nessea Serrana Aparados, no 409 (apart 20) Apto 21
Via Felm - Guarulhos - São Paulo
Brazil
Cod: 07191-131
email: locaoilobocartepostal@hotmail.com
blog: www.locaoilobocartepostal.blogspot.com

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**VISUAL POETRY Object Book**

Calle:%
Sand by mail
One work size A4
Free theme and technique
No jury, no devotion
Dead Line: October 30th, 2012

With the works received it will be made an Object Book, which will be displayed at Cultural Center of Caçafada de Gömez from November 19th to November 26, 2012.

Rosa Gravino
Chacabuco 833
2500 - Caçafada de Gömez
ARGENTINA

It will be sent a catalog to every participant
rosagavino@gmail.com

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**Une œuvre de: Roland Halbritter, Muehlweg 15, 97720, Nuedlingen, ALLEMAGNE**
**DOINGPOETRY IN THE WORLD**

**Mailart project**

Doingpoetry: Poetry, Art, Society  
Free size, medium and technique  
No fee, no jury, no sales, no returns  
The show will be held in Pavia in 2012, November 23-25  
At Santa Maria Gualtieri during PAVIART POETRY Festival 2012  
Organization by O.M.P. and Farepoesia  
Documentation: all submissions will also be posted on the web sites under construction in http://www.farepoesia.it/mail-art.html  
Artworks should be sent by snail mail  
**DEADLINE to be received: 2012, November 10**

**send to:**

**TITO TRUGLIA**  
Via Torino 37  
I-27100 Pavia  
ITALY

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

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**Roses Are Red**  
MY LOVE  
A.2.2012

Une œuvre de: Angela Behrendt, Heidomstrasse 7, 30171, Hannover, ALLEMAGNE

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

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Sur son matelas deux places  
sous l'abri de l'arrêt de bus  
"République" à Paris  
une maman indéfiniment  
entre ses jambes berce son bébé  
en même temps que son inquiétude de la vie  
Blottie contre son flanc  
sa petite fille apeurée  
regarde passer gens et voitures  
comme autant de possibles menaces  
L'arrivée de l'ainé  
un garçonnet de sept - huit ans  
qui d'un pas alerte  
apporte un tout menu sac de course  
éclaire les visages  
de l'ébauche d'un sourire  
Un instant  
le monde leur paraît moins adverse  
L'enfant n'a pas été tué  
par le trafic automobile  
il a trouvé  
l'aliment ou le médicament  
en quête duquel il avait été envoyé

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Sur son matelas deux places  
sous l'abri de l'arrêt de bus  
"République" à Paris  
une maman indéfiniment  
entre ses jambes berce son bébé  
en même temps que son inquiétude de la vie  
Et devant tant d'inacceptable dénuement  
en ce début de 21ème siècle  
je cherche la République  
de France

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Un poème de : Béatrice Gaudy, 155 rue de Grenelle, 75007, Paris, FRANCE
Participants:
Miguel Jimenez/El Taller de Zenon, C/Santa Maria de Guia 1-4, 41008, Sevilla, ESPAGNE
Uli Grohmann, Hammer Str. 164, 48153, Münster, ALLEMAGNE
Antonio Moreno Garrido, Calle de la Bobila, 26 Bxos., 08205, Sabadell (Barcelona), ESPAGNE
Samuel Montalvetti, Av. Rivadavia 2109 1a dto 3, 1034, Buenos Aires, ARGENTINE
R.F. Côté, 12465 Avenue De Troyes, Québec, (Québec), G2A 3C9, CANADA
Henk J. Van Ooyen, Vilnderveen 258, 3205EJ, Spykenisse, PAYS-BAS
Bruno Chiarello, 58 rue Berte Lotti, 17014, Cairo Montenotte (SV), ITALIE
Valery Shimanskiy, P.O. Box 804, Nizhekamsk, Tatarstan, 423578, UKRAINE
Lubomyr Tymkov, A/C 9875, Sadivnycha 19/1, 79038, Lviv, UKRAINE
Ambassade d’Utopia “E”, 38 Grande Rue, 02300, Guivry, FRANCE
Kurt Beaulieu, C.P. 32166, C.S.P. St-André, Montréal, QC, H2L 4Y5, CANADA
Marcelle Simon, 13 Résidence Les Monts, 50000, Baudre, FRANCE

Destinataire:
REJEAN F. CÔTÉ
12465 AVENUE DE TROYES
QUÉBEC, QC
G2A 3C9

Participants:
Vittore Baroni, Via C. Battisti 339, 55049, Viareggio, ITALIE
Giovanni StraDa Da Ravenna, via Odoacre 14, 48100, Ravenna, ITALIE
Béatrice Gaudy, 155 rue de Grenelle, 75007, Paris, FRANCE
Éric Bensidron, 14 rue Sauffroy, 75017, Paris, FRANCE
Roland Halbritter, Muehlweg 15, 97720, Nuedlingen, ALLEMAGNE
Christian Alle, 9 rue du Pré de la Mer, 50460, Urville-Nacqueville, FRANCE
Angela Behrendt, Heidomstrasse 7, 30171, Hannover, ALLEMAGNE
Bruno Sourdin, 147, rue Vieille-Rue, 50000, Saint-Lô, FRANCE