

OCTOBER 9-27, 1973

Nature
into
Art

THE RENAISSANCE SOCIETY

Introduction

The works in this multi-media exhibition illustrate a current trend toward the use of natural phenomena as the basis for different art forms. The artist's perception as well as his subtle transformations of natural elements create a wide range of art works from traditional sculpture to conceptual events.

Some of the artists represented have an ecological bias and are involved with their materials in a scientific way. This is true of Alan Sonfist who uses chemical and biological elements, seeking to create change, rhythms, and inter-dependences within eco-systems. His growing crystals change into a purple gas with the application of heat and back to crystals again in their own eco-systems.

Other artists have an irreverent attitude to classical art forms and intend to shock with their juxtaposition of natural materials. Rafael Ferrer, who recently emptied 84 bushels of leaves in three separate art locations in New York and who created ice sculptures for the Whitney Museum, illustrates this irreverent attitude.

Still other artists use natural materials for their sensual and evocative qualities. Charles Arnoldi's beautifully painted relief sculptures made of tree branches are examples of this aesthetic use of natural media.

In addition to the sculptural objects created from trees, leaves, and crystals, the exhibition includes photographic recordings of atmospheric optics and conceptual events inspired by natural phenomena. Whether the bias is scientific irreverent, or evocative, the media are natural and the range of possibilities for creative expression are limitless.

Jean K. Goldman

" TWO INSTANCES OF LOBATION"

Generalizations Integrations Relations

These conceptual events consist of outdoor installations with documents and statements made specifically for this exhibition. The events reflect the artists' involvement with natural environment as a source for experimentation with the acuity of our visual awareness. The artists share an almost scientific interest in natural phenomena and a strong ecological commitment. They are concerned with perceiving new relationships in nature and inducing new harmonies between man and nature.



Statements by the Artists

PHIL BERKMAN

Born 1946, McKeesport, Pennsylvania
B.F.A. Syracuse University

GRASS

In the tremendous effort to stimulate a soft green carpet near buildings of leisure, living and thought we forget the individual organism which is the central module in Grass; the grass plant. We expedite its growth process by delivering it to yards and parks like rolled rugs, and in some kind of concession to nature we color astroturf green like the growth it replaces instead of orange or blue.



"12 HOLES"

MIKE CRANE

Born 1948, St. Louis, Missouri

Exhibits: 1973 Festival of Art, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky.

1973 Evanston Art Festival, Evanston, Illinois

For the last year my work has been concerned with an investigation into the "give—take" relationship of "man—environment" and the changes/processes occurring. The work is leading to the development of a vocabulary of perceptions (of these experiences) and an understanding of the many aspects involved. Some key words my work employs are design, information, elements, environment, community, movement, sound.

I am exhibiting two pieces that are about natural design/activity and man's relationship to them on a sensual/perceptive level.

12 HOLES

An examination of the impermanence of our activities.

PHENOMENON: TREE

The establishment of a system for identification and community.



"ACCUMULATION — INTEGRATION"

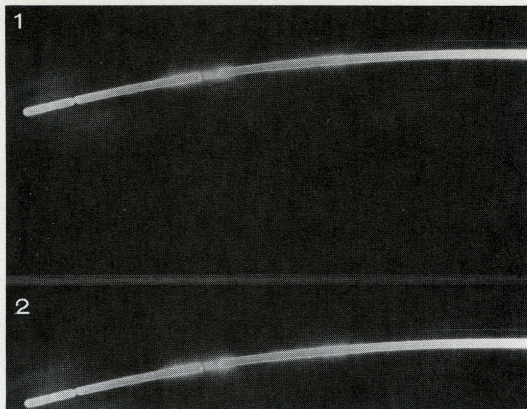
ANGELS RIBE

Born 1943, Barcelona, Spain

Exhibitions in France, Spain, U.S.A.

- 1966 I left Barcelona and went to Paris where I worked in ceramics and took courses in the sociology of art.
- 1969 I stopped doing ceramics and started making environmental sculptures. Returned to Barcelona.
- 1969/70 Continued environmental works but stopped making sculptures.
Works with soap foam.
Works with rain, waves, sea, land, trees.
- 1971 Works with geometry in relationship with elements like mercury, water, tensions.
- 1972 Incorporation of living forms:
Works with body and geometry.
- 1972 Came to Chicago.
- 1973 Works essentially with perception.

My intent with this series of works is to approach nature and physical phenomena. They are concerned with perception, some of them trying to give new information, others recreating artificially physical laws.



"TWO DISTANCES 1972"

FRANCESE TORRES

Born 1948, Barcelona, Spain

- Exhibits: 1968 Biennale de Bordeaux
 "Collective Action." Nice, France
 1972 "Encuentros de Pamplona,"
 Pamplona, Spain
 "Comunicacion Actual," Spain
 1973 "Two Exercises (one man exhibit),
 Illinois Center, Chicago
 Evanston Art Center Festival
 "L'Elementos,"
 Valencia and Seville, Spain
 "Poesia visual Catalana," Spain

1965/66 Studies graphics and paintings.

1967 Moves to Paris for two years. First work in minimal sculpture and multiples.

1968 Collective action works. Prototypes for polyester multiples. Concrete poetry, ice sculptures and first inflatable structures.

1969 Comes back to Barcelona. Paper construction sculptures (minimal, object poems). Concrete poetry, inflatable structures as containers of physical phenomena. Works with natural phenomena (water, drops of water, wind, fire, etc.). Projects for laser beam.

1970 Application of electronics to language. Combinations of electronics with natural phenomena (wind). Works with chemical phenomena.

1972 Works with the laser beam in the optical department of the faculty of physics of the University of Barcelona. Works with live material. Comes to U.S.A.

1973 Statements, observations, considerations.

General Statement

Taking physical phenomena, natural elements or facts as a precise point of departure within the process of realization of an art work, the result has one specific significance beyond the fact of being valued or defined as art.

Catalogue

Charles Arnoldi

Born 1946, Dayton, Ohio.

Attended Chouinart Art Institute, Los Angeles, 1968.

Lives in Los Angeles, California.

1. UNTITLED. 1972. Painted, bound sticks, 14" x 14".
Lent anonymously.
2. UNTITLED. 1972. Painted, bound sticks, 22" x 22".
Lent anonymously.

Rafael Ferrer

Born 1933, Puerto Rico.

Lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

3. EXPLORER'S VISION TRUNK. 1972. Photo, trunk, leaves, glass, fish and various materials. 24" x 30" x 21". Lent by the Phyllis Kind Gallery.
4. FALKLAND CURRENTS MAP. 1972. Wood, fur, and various materials. 66" x 4" x 4". Lent by the Phyllis Kind Gallery.

Alan Sonfist

Born 1946, New York.

M. A. Hunter College, New York.

Lives in New York.

5. UNTITLED. 1972. Crystal globe filled with natural crystals. 14" x 11". Lent by Deson-Zaks Gallery.
6. UNTITLED. 1972. Plexiglas column filled with natural crystals. 76" high. Lent by Deson-Zaks Gallery.

William Wiley

Born 1936, Indiana.

Lives in Woodacre, California.

7. THE OLD CODGER. 1971/72. Copper tape, wood, leather, glass. It accompanies a watercolor (1972, 17½" x 15½"). 32¾" x 12". Lent by David Lawrence Design.

METEOROLOGICAL OPTICS

Forty-three color photographs by Dr. Alistair Fraser, professor of Atmospheric Sciences at Pennsylvania University. Lent by the Smithsonian Institution.

