



Minnesota Center for Book Arts
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 12, 2009
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Page: 1 of 2

**MINNESOTA CENTER FOR BOOK ARTS ANNOUNCES
FLUXUS-INSPIRED "ASSEMBLING" EXHIBITION, PUBLICATION AND PROGRAMMING**

(MINNEAPOLIS, MN) Minnesota Center for Book Arts is proud to announce their upcoming exhibition:

None of the Above: Assembling, Collaborating and Publishing in the Eternal Network

On display August 28 through November 8, 2009

Opening reception Friday, August 28; 6-9pm

"Assembling" represents the ultimate in democratic art and was an outgrowth of the Fluxus movement of the 1960s and '70s. Groups of artists — often those active in the correspondence/mail art community — collaborated to produce compilations of work void of editorial oversight. This exhibition celebrates those independent voices through an historical overview of past publications and contemporary examples. Work on display will be from a variety of public and private collections, co-curated by 2007 MCBA Winter Book co-editor Tom Cassidy and MCBA Artistic Director Jeff RATHERMEL. A series of Assemblings will be produced by MCBA allowing visitors to see the process in action, and a publication project of the same name will be distributed featuring multiples from local artists and contributors around the globe.

Associated programming:

Dada Machine Fluxus

Saturday, October 10, 8pm; performance begins in the Open Book Lobby

Join Picasso Gaglione, Darlene Domel, Scott Helmes, Kay Arndt, Keith Buchholz, Lori Turner, Olivia Gilles, Jeff RATHERMEL and other surprise guests for a set of Fluxus performances occurring throughout The Open Book building and MCBA's studios.

Get It Together: An Assembling Event

Saturday, October 24, 7pm; in MCBA's studios

The culmination of the publication arm of *None of the Above*. Multiples submitted by artists from around the world will be assembled into a limited edition publication, and then distributed back to the collaborators. Assembling is open to the public; additional collaborating artists are welcome to contribute work that evening, but must first contact MCBA Artistic Director Jeff RATHERMEL in advance for guidelines and instructions. Arrive at 7 pm, assembly lines commence at 7:30 pm.

Coordinating exhibitions:

Independent Variables: Contemporary Zine Publications

On display through September 6; Open Book Lobby Gallery

Zines represent the power afforded self-publishers and demonstrate the liberating effects associated with democratic methods of distribution. Publications from a variety of artists populate this interactive celebration of the independent voice.

The Box Sets by Picasso Gaglione

On display August 28 through November 8; Open Book Lobby Gallery

William "Picasso" Gaglione has held a prominent position in the international network of correspondence artists since the mid 1960s and is acknowledged as one of the founders and foremost artists in the mail art movement. Whether as the proprietor of Chicago's "Stampland" or as one of his other guises, Gaglione has never stopped sharing his Dada visions with the world.

(continued)



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BACKGROUND: MINNESOTA CENTER FOR BOOK ARTS

As the largest and most comprehensive center of its kind in the nation, Minnesota Center for Book Arts celebrates the book as a vibrant contemporary art form that takes many shapes. From the traditional crafts of papermaking, letterpress printing and hand bookbinding to experimental artmaking and self-publishing techniques, MCBA supports the limitless creative evolution of book arts through book arts workshops and programming for adults, youth, families, K-12 groups and teachers. MCBA is located in the Open Book building in downtown Minneapolis, alongside The Loft Literary Center and Milkweed Editions. For more, visit www.mnbookarts.org.

BACKGROUND: PICASSO GAGLIONE

Picasso Gaglione has had many incarnations and identifications during his long career as a conceptual artist. One of the first influences on his art was the Fluxus art movement and its absurdist doctrines which he discovered in New York. His friendships with members of the movement — especially Dick Higgins, Alison Knowles, and Emmett Williams — supported and inspired his work. The concepts of Robert Watts, Yoko Ono and Ben Vautier were also very influential.

In the mid 1960s he became involved with the mail art movement as a correspondent of the late Ray Johnson. This connected him with a wide network of artists who participated in mail art shows sponsored by organizations and individuals all over the world. The non-judgmental precepts of mail art and its outsider actions held great appeal for him. He created his mail artwork under the name "Dadaland". This overlap of arts connected him with practitioners like May Wilson, Richard C and John Evans. In recognition of his contribution to the movement he was named as one of the ten Masters in the mail art guild formed in Japan in the '80s. A large portion of his work in this medium is now part of the collection in the Getty Museum in Los Angeles.

After moving to northern California in the late 1960s he founded the Bay Area Dadaists, a publication and performance company. Mail Art was still his major form of expression and often included rubber stamp works. In the late 1970s he formed his first rubber stamp company, Stamp Francisco, in San Francisco under his new art nomenclature, Picasso Gaglione. Aided and abetted by his supportive and often perplexed wife, Darlene Domel, he created the Stamp Art Gallery, featuring the works of well-known and discovered rubber stamp artists. He did extensive research on each subject from the work of the Russian Futurists in the early part of the 20th century to more modern artists who worked with stamps: like Andy Warhol, Yves Klein and Picasso. He also promoted many new artists in the field. His collection of catalogs from this venture are now in the archive library permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

His latest adventure involved a move to Chicago, Illinois where he began a new rubberstamp company called Stampland, and a new gallery and museum called Stamp Art Museum. His latest work combines aspects of all his actions in art: the boxed stamp sets. These sets have some resemblance to the famous Flux Kits from the sixties as well as items relating to both mail art and rubber stamps. Picasso has never stopped being a performance artist. He has performed in New York, across Canada, in Europe and of course, San Francisco. His latest appearances have been with the Chicago Fluxus Ensemble.

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