

BEUYS&GIRLS

Arte postal/Mail art

Mail-Art/Global Man

The Post, as per conjecture of the Post-industrial society, is a public communication service department. It is through the mail that messages (letters, notes, volumes) are sent from the sender to the receiver. But the Post makes the physical transport of those messages ignoring the informative or significative contents of what it forwards. Its essence, as public service, is precisely that ignorance, i.e., the guaranty of inviolability of the correspondence. Post can standardize the format of the letters and the size of the orders, but cannot either interfere in its contents or violate, change or destroy the messages it delivers; this would ruin its own functioning and reason of existance. If this would be the case, it would change itself into a public enemy; in a way or regression, at the service of the oppressor. Oppressor, that interferes in the communication system (through a NOISY manner) depriving people from their liberty of expression or acting towards them as a coercive intimidator.

Profanation, censure and deviation of correspondence, is a fascist practice, that was very common in our country (such as intercepting phone calls) as a repressive and political totalitary weapon.

But if Post to be Post cannot interfere in the messages it is sending, the messages can and must interfere with the nature and function of the department that is effecting the deliverance.

That is the discovery of MAIL-ART, it's strength and it's newness: to transform a humble conveyer public department or neutral vehicle under the semantical viewpoint, into a cultural producer, into a creative generator.

McLuhan's aphorism: "the procedure is the message", in this case will be straightforwardly inverted, since MAIL-ART is the message that changes the way. I. e., how (the mail's pragmatic function) is re-defined and transformed in a significant way of communication: the deed of communicating itself.

To communicate by mail is thus an approach of creative proceeding, of cognizance, of exchanging experiences, of an increase of informatory mode and of tenseness between the sender(s) and the receiver(s) that exchange their own positions mutually.

And the plural in this case is significant since the phenomenon has nothing to do with the epistolography of the XIX century's liking, between two elected beings.

It's in the plural and in the scale of the terrestrial globe that MAIL-ART is accomplished, out and beyond the small and self-seeking circuits of art and of the communication means sociably speaking.

If the Post exists all over the world (functioning better or worst according with countries and frontiers) it is then an instrument that the creativity cannot ignore.

But if the practices of MAIL-ART can in the meantime look insuficient, that poverty or rudimentarism is already a sign of a new social, aestethic that is coming through. In fact, MAIL-ART isn't just a delivery of a master-piece by mail, whether it will be a book or a record, a picture or a sculpture.

In the MAIL-ART it is more important "the act of sending" than the delivery itself, and the result is the immateriality of the aesthetics, in an economy of what it is send and its value as an object of commercial exchange.

To diffuse by mail a simple sentence or a policopied rhyme, is more important than sending a book to a literary critic.

One can say that the efficacy of MAIL-ART is proportionally inverse to the material wealth of the messages, since that would turn easy the use its own way of communication; the mail is at the same time a death certificate on a certain aesthetic, which is too much useful for the commercial exploration.

MAIL-ART could be the most important service that Post, exactly as it is now, can render to mankind. It will contribute for the beginning of a new sensibility and global conscience. Without this it will be very hard to survive to the energetic crisis and to the degradation of the ideologic-economical system of the end of this XX century.

This global conscience of the critical situation we can find all over the world, is a symptom of the metamorphosis that for sure will take place and GLOBAL-MAN will appear. To connect such futurologic utopia to the MAIL-ART such as it is nowadays could still seem temerarious or ridiculous.

But it wouldn't be like this whether we think that metamorphosis will have to start (or did it start already?) by a change inside every man, so in the individual sensibility, making him gradually able to feel in a similar situation and connected to other men. Although they are distant

Of course MAIL-ART is right now supported by an institution that is part of that system: the Post of each country, the international Post and the transport system, by land, sea or air.

However it uses that support to mislead it's use up to a larger objective which is a transformation in itself and global in the limit.

If uses as communication medium reversing its specific capacity of transmission of messages, i.e. subverting it.

From there cames also the attractive force of MAIL-ART, since it is an one most form of the aesthetic transgression that instead of being easily absorved by the Art market system, (as it has happened to so many Avant-Guardes), on the contrary, uses the institution to diffuse at the global scale, values that are adverse to that system and that projects itself in an image still very smoky; the utopia of man that will inherit our mistakes and hits, but that with less or greater intensity, starts right now inhabiting inside lots of people: THE GLOBAL MAN

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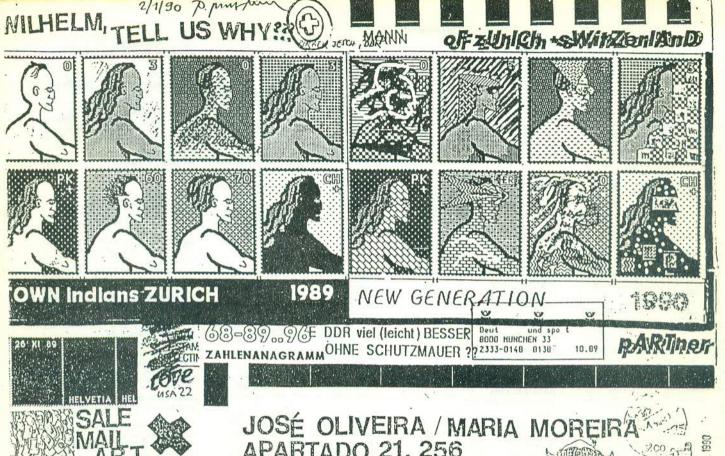
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TAIL ART IS NOT FINE ART I IS THE ARTIST WHO IS FINE JOSÉ OLIVEIRA / MARIA MOREIRA APARTADO 21. 256 1131 LISBOA CODEX PORTUGAL beter Kaufman (Ch.



Just Gruel

NOTICE:

The organizers of "Beuvs & Girls" exhibition had previously forseen for the cover, the graphic typesetting transcribed on the left. Upon receipt of the letter (included in this catalogue), from the daughter of Chilean Mail-Artist Dâmaso Ogaz, announcing her father's death, we decided to reproduce on the cover the contribution of this Mail-Artist for the same exhibition. Death is unavoidable, isn't it? But when someone dies in despair by the abandonement of the artistical institutions in his country? and in exile ... it may happen to anyone of us, unless we crossed once for all to "the other side" of the road. The money side. All of us should contribute with our work to this endless struggle. Mail-Art might be one of the best ways to help this common cause. So, we appeal to the International Mail-Art Network to do the same, if possible. We like to express this way our solidarity, not only with Dâmaso Ogaz and his family, but with every artist persecuted by any kind of power, victim of any kind of repression or forgiveness or limitations to his freedom as a human being and as an artist. Art is a statement of freedom and an outburst of life. Stop narcisism! "Thinking about Mail-Art is thinking together". Be active! Help to create a better world of peace and freedom! Start right now! Thanks in advance.

> 3 D'evandauns 3 The Nomad Museum



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Artes Gráficas, FILOGRÁFICA gráfica: I Execução





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