



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

This is our Tenth Anniversary season, a proud moment in my life as founder of the institution, and a nice round number to symbolize Franklin Furnace's achievements. Among these, surely, are the historical and thematic exhibitions, which illuminate the book as an artform -- "Cubist Prints/Cubist Books," "Russian Avant-Garde Books," "Samizdat," "Artists' Use of Language," the "Copycat" show of xerography, "The Page as Alternative Space, 1909-1980," "Public Relations a.k.a. Propaganda," "Mail Art Then and Now" -- it's hard to mention only a few of the 57 worthy exhibitions organized by guest curators since 1976.

Another of Franklin Furnace's achievements of which I am inordinately proud is our launching of emerging artists' careers. Exposure at Franklin Furnace provided timely boosts to artists whose names are becoming household words: Laurie Anderson, Barton Benes, Eric Bogosian, Lenora Champagne, Constance De Jong, James Casebere, Karen Finley, Claudia Fitch, Donna Henes, Julia Heyward, Candace Hill-Montgomery, Jenny Holzer, Barbara Kruger, Mierle Ukeles Lederman, Stephanie Brody Lederman, Robert Longo, Charles Moulton, Matt Mullican, Karen Shaw, Theodora Skipitares -- to name a few of the artists presented by Franklin Furnace's performance and exhibition series since 1976.

But finally, Franklin Furnace's crowning achievement, one made possible by the generosity of thousands of artists and collectors worldwide, is the accumulation of the largest collection of art in book form in the United States. The aggregate importance of these materials, as well as the value of individual works by such artists as Vito Acconci, Ida Applebroog, John Baldessari, Gilbert and George, Sol Lewitt, Claes Oldenburg, Yoko Ono, Dieter Roth, Lawrence Weiner and many others from all parts of the globe, has led to recognition of the field in quarters where there was none ten years ago. Franklin Furnace's permanent collection holds over 18,000 items which are studied, catalogued, conserved, documented, exhibited, traveled and loved.

I hope you will agree that Franklin Furnace is a remarkable institution, fueled by artists who work on staff, exhibit and perform, and contribute to the permanent collection and benefit events.


Martha Wilson
Director

10th ANNIVERSARY

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