

Centre for Artist Books

Serial Context

16.02.2002 – 18.04.2002

Serial Context considers serial publications produced by artists in Europe from the 1960s up until the present day. Often produced in situations of limited resources or poverty, these serial publications, magazines, journals and fanzines break with publishing conventions, with the artists themselves dictating contents, schedules and formats. Many of these titles have found audiences to support and encourage their production over long periods, while others faded after a few editions.

In the same way that some people can talk about long past football matches, as if they happened yesterday or intricate permutations and constellations of musicians in obscure but influential bands, there is a seminal history of art disseminated by artists through publications which support and inform the making, thinking, talking and writing of art.

Whether the publications were produced in addition to, or as a central part of their practice, the editors/artists share a common approach to the serial publication as a primary means of research, connecting ideas, subjects and specialisms often too disparate for conventional conclusions.

Serial Context will include *Control*, *Metronome*, *Pist Protta*, *StopStop* and *Stellar*. *Control*, established by Stephen Willats, was first published in 1965. To date sixteen editions have been made. When it began, Willats says, "there wasn't a magazine that seriously dealt with issues and ideas as seen by young contemporary artists. I didn't see myself as a magazine editor but saw *Control* as part of my practice as an artist."

Like itinerant workers, Clémentine Deliss and *Metronome* have moved from West Africa (No.0), through the centres of Europe, to the north: Scandinavia and Iceland (No. 7). The format and content of each edition picking up some vernacular on the way. Now in its 8th edition, the scope of *Metronome* has provided young and established artists, writers and curators alike with a forum to present projects and ideas that are tangential, yet valuable, to their main practice.

Pist Protta has been produced in Copenhagen for the past twenty-one years. The title is a play on words and language, the details of which have been forgotten. Always kept to print-runs of 500 hundred copies or less, to allow the possibility of hand finishing and detailing, the editors and designers, who often contribute (Jesper Fabricius, Jesper Rasmussen and Aase Eg Joergensen, continue to see it as a playful and humorous forum. For instance, issue 34-45 that consists solely of front covers of each issue, describing their fictional contents.

Open Mouth is in its infancy, with just the first issue produced. Unnar Jonasson, an Icelandic artist based in Sweden, favours a straightforward production style. Also made in Sweden, *Publikation()* is a project for which two artists, Annelie Nilsson and Susanne Roennertz, co-ordinate the production of a series of artist's publications,

without any editorial intervention or censoring. To date around forty-five volumes have been produced, ranging from comics to manifestos.

Stellar is a solo project by artist David Osbaldeston. In each issue he pays homage to a well known artist. Osbaldeston questions accepted truths by creating a fanzine that reconstructs the facts and information about the chosen artist. As in real fanzines *Stellar* is sometimes produced with the co-operation and authorisation of the subject, and sometimes it is a guerrilla production.

The exhibition is curated by Lesley Young, an independent curator and Writer based in Edinburgh and Malmö, Sweden.