


1968-2008



SMS

A Collection of Multiples

40th Anniversary Exhibition



Released in 1968, the SMS portfolio represents a collaboration between some of the most important artists of the 20th century. Centered around a loft on Manhattan’s Upper West Side rented and maintained by the American Surrealist William Copley, SMS (a coy abbreviation for “Shit Must Stop”) was an open-ended collective that epitomized the community ethos of the late 1960s. Frequented by artists, curators, performers and composers both accomplished and aspiring, Copley’s loft became renowned for its utopian morale and hospitable working conditions, which included “a buffet perpetually replenished by nearby Zabar’s Delicatessen, an open bar, and a pay phone with a cigar box filled with dimes.”¹

The six volumes of the SMS portfolio were the crowning achievement of Copley’s experiment, embodying the spirit of the collective and serving as time capsules of an extraordinary moment in American art. Bypassing the institutions of museums and galleries, the portfolios were mailed directly to their subscribers, opening a direct line of communication between artist and audience. Each portfolio included meticulously editioned works by a roster of artists both world-famous and obscure—as well as some tongue-in-cheek contributions by art dealers and critics—each of whom received \$100 for their contribution regardless of reputation or medium. Among the many artists and composers represented are Marcel Duchamp, Roy Lichtenstein, Man Ray, Christo, Richard Hamilton, Claes Oldenbourg, John Cage, Terry Riley, and Yoko Ono.

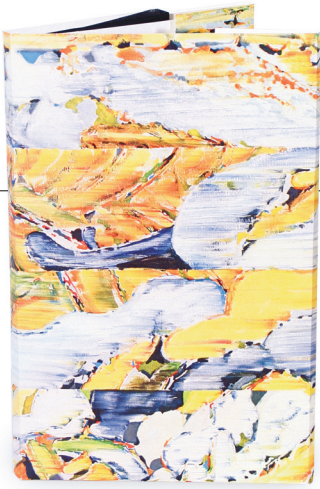
Davidson Galleries is proud to celebrate the 40th anniversary of SMS by exhibiting a complete set of all six portfolios. Please visit our website or contact the Antique Print Department for pricing and availability.

Emily Pothast, Director
Antique Print Department
206 624.6700
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Davidson Galleries
313 Occidental Ave S.
Seattle, WA 98104
www.davidsongalleries.com



1. Carter Ratcliff, “SMS: Art in Real Time,” from SMS: A Collection of Original Multiples. Exhibition catalog. Published by Reinhold-Brown Gallery, NY. Oct. 1988.



SMS No. 1: February 1968

1. Irving Petling (American artist, b. 1934) *Little Box of Earthquake and Cotton*. SMS 1 cover design.



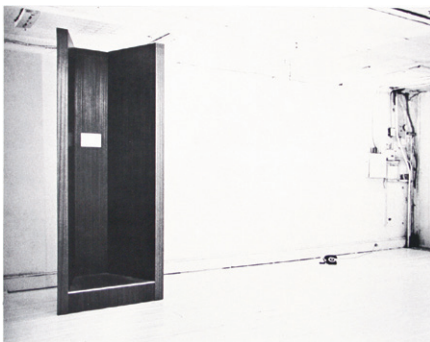
2. Sue Braden (British artist, b. 1940) *Project for a Bridge*. Pen and ink drawings on vellum, die cut and folded.



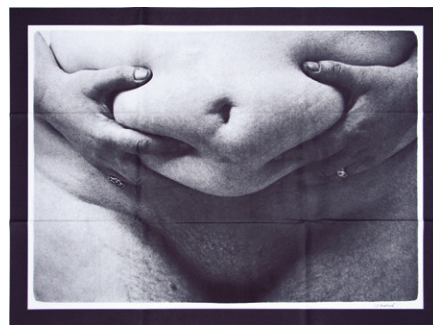
3. Richard Hamilton (English artist, b. 1922) *A Postal Card for Mother*. Photographic construction.



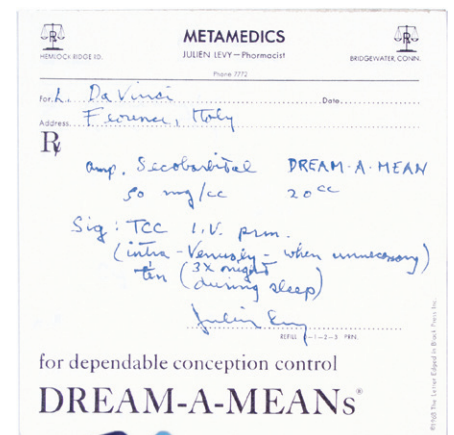
4. Christo (Bulgarian/American artist, b. 1935) *Store Front*. Mylar and paper construction.



5. Walter de Maria (American artist, b. 1935) *Chicago Project*. Documentation of proposal to install a telephone booth at the Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art for visitors to answer random phone calls from the artist.



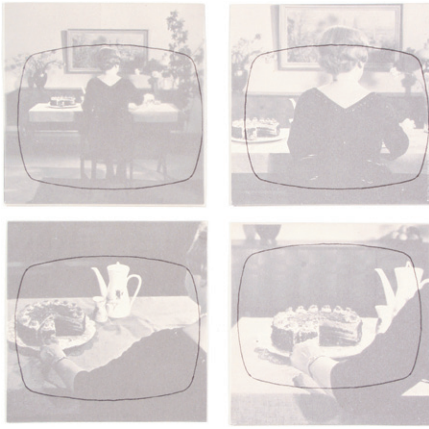
6. Sol Mednick (American photographer, 1916–1970) *Hottentot Apron*. Photogravure.



7. Julian Levy (American dealer/critic, 1910–1981) *Pharmaceuticals*. Prescription for "conception control," capsules.



8. La Monte Young (American composer, b. 1936) and Marian Zazeela (American artist, b. 1940) *Two Propositions in Black*. Young's statements (on the relationship of tuning to time) hand-written in silver on folded construction paper with calligraphic border by Zazeela.



9. **Kaspar Koening** (German curator/critic, b. 1940) *My Country 'Tis of Thee: West Germany, 1968 (Four Views)*. Photographs with vellum overlay.



10. **James Lee Byars** (American artist, 1940–1997) *Black Dress*. Model of "Friendship Dress," meant to accommodate four people. Black tissue in envelope with photographic portraits.



11. **Nancy Reitkopf** (American artist, wife of SMS production manager Bernard Reitkopf, b. 1938) *Luggage Labels*. Printed luggage labels commemorating famous disasters.



SMS No. 2: April 1968

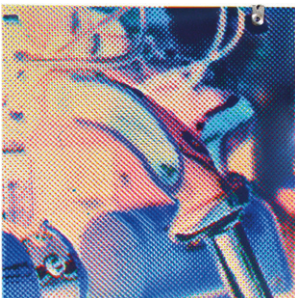
12. **Marcel Duchamp** (French/American artist, 1887–1968) *Contrepèterie*. Seven minute recording of surrealist word game. SMS 2 cover design featuring removable record.



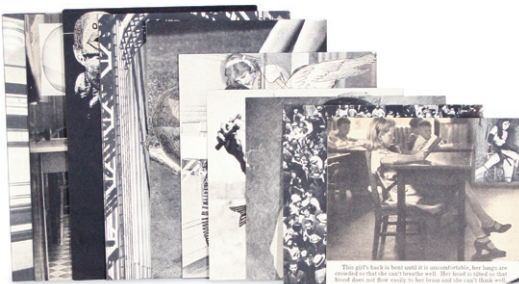
13. **Bruce Conner** (American artist, b. 1933) *Legal Tender*. Stack of "bills" printed with abstract drawings on both sides.



14. **Lee Lozano** (American artist, 1930–1999) *Thesis (All Men Are Hardly Created Equal)*. Illustrated notebook with satin ribbon.



15. **Alain Jacquet** (French artist, b. 1939) *Three Color Separations*. Printed mylar.



17. **Marcia Herscovitz** (American artist, 1925–1974) *Ten Collages*. Photocollages printed on black stock.



16. **Clovis Trouille** (French artist, 1899–1975) *Album*. Photograph album with red flocked binding and gold embossing containing reproductions of 16 Trouille paintings.

18. **George Reavey** (British poet, 1907–1976) *Farewell to Faust*. Poem by Christopher Marlowe's ghost, as communicated to Reavey's wife as she was gardening, printed on sheer tissue. Enclosed in a Reavey poem silkscreened in colors on grey.





19. Meret Oppenheim (Swiss artist, 1913–1985) *The Mirror of Geneveva*. Debossed print.



20. Ray Johnson (American artist, 1927–1995) *A Two-Year-Old Girl Choked to Death Today on an Easter Egg*. Duotones on chrome-coated photographic paper.



21. Nicolas Calas (Swiss/American critic/poet, 1907–1989) *Cynocephalus & Co.* Silkscreened essay in red on silver mylar encased in a vinyl-coated silkscreened sleeve.



22. Bernard Pfeim (American artist, 1916–1996) *A Proposed Comic Section for the New York Times*. Printed photographs in accordion-folded six page spread.



SMS No. 3: June 1968

23. John Battan (John Sebastian Matta) (American artist, son of Roberto Matta, 1943–1976) *Untitled abstract landscapes*. SMS 3 cover design.



24. H.C. Westermann (American artist, 1922–1981) *Correspondence*. Four postmarked letters tied together with a pink satin ribbon. Inside the envelopes are drawings with notes.



25. Aftograf (Pseudonym of underground Russian poet. Translated and smuggled to US by George Reavey) *Poems*. Two bound albums of concrete and sound poetry.



26. William Bryant (Billy Copley) (American artist, b. 1946) *Clouds*. Eighteen page folio of sheet music with renderings of cloud formations.

27. Hannah Weiner (American poet, 1928–1997) *Signal Flag Poems*. Two folded brochures, one with four poems and the other with pictorial translations of the poems using the International Code of Signals for ships at sea. Also included is *Long Poem for Roy Lichtenstein* and a pinwheel for generating chance poetry.



28. Joseph Kosuth (American artist, b. 1945) *Four Titled Abstracts*. Printed dictionary excerpts on hand-folded black paper, enclosed in folder.

29. Roland Penrose (British critic/artist/poet, 1900–1984) *Bush in Hand*. Die-cut paper construction with printed photographs.

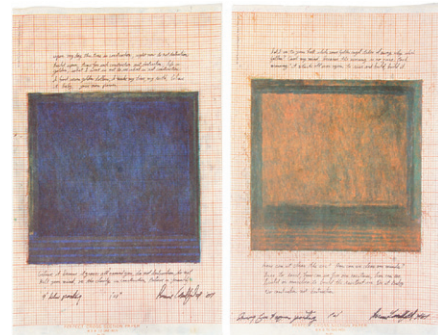




30. **Man Ray** (American artist, 1890–1976) *The Father of Mona Lisa*. Printed ready-made on paper.



31. **Terry Riley** (American composer, b. 1935) *Poppy Nogood's All Night Flight (The First Ascent)*. Cassette edition of work performed Nov. 17, 1967, 10:p.m.–6:30 a.m. at the Philadelphia College of Art. Cover drawing by Riley's daughter Colleen, at age 9.*



32. **Ronnie Landfield** (American artist, b. 1947) *Two Drawings*. Colored preparatory drawings on parchment with hand-written philosophical notations.

I, Dick Higgins, solemnly swear that I am an

Ode to London

a meaning bridge

What was formerly called "cocks" I redefine as "wristwatches."
 What was formerly called "wristwatches" I redefine as "flannels."
 What was formerly called "flannels" I redefine as "expensive water."
 What was formerly called "expensive" I redefine as "gummy."
 What was formerly called "water" I redefine as "cup."
 What was formerly called "gummy" I redefine as "maudlin."
 What was formerly called "cup" I redefine as "turnip."
 What was formerly called "maudlin" I redefine as "ambitious."

And "turnip" and "ambition" denote two different aspects of the same thing.

The wristwatches burn their flannels because of the expensive water. They were both gummy, and the cup made the flannel maudlin. So each had several turnips, and both became terribly ambitious.

New York City
 January 17, 1967

33. **Dick Higgins** (American artist, 1938–1998) *Ode to London*. Silkscreened text in lavender on mylar.



34. **Enrico Baj** (Italian artist, 1924–2003) *Glove*. Folded vinyl glove and tissue encapsulated in plastic.



SMS No. 4: August 1968

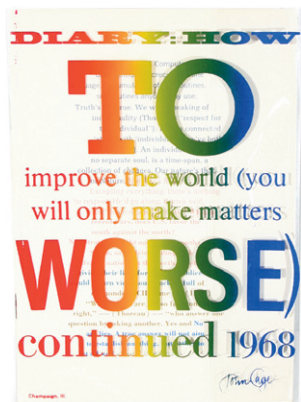
35. **Robert Stanley** (American artist, 1932–1997) SMS 4 cover design.



36. **Princess Winifred** (American asylum inmate, active 1940s–60s) *Asylum Manuscripts*. Drawings and writings on brown paper towels.

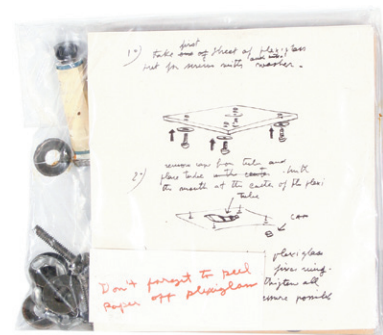


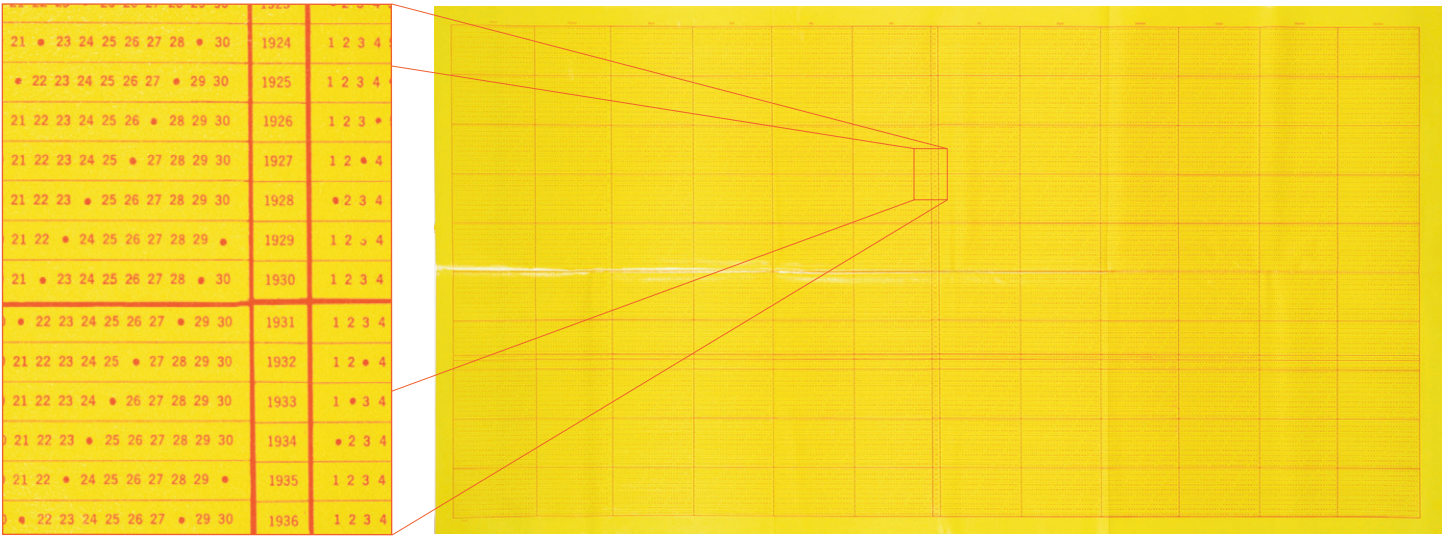
37. **Roy Lichtenstein** (American, 1923–1997) *Folded Hat*. Silkscreened vinyl sheet folded into hat.



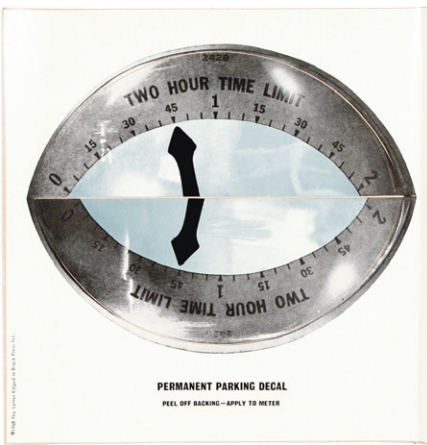
39. **John Cage** (American composer, 1912–1992) *Diary: How to Improve the World (You Will Only Make Matters Worse) continued 1968*. Mylar case containing twenty page booklet of autobiographical impressions printed on heavy stock with typeface, weight, and color chosen according to chance.

38. **Arman** (French/American artist, 1928–2005) *Tortured Color*. Materials to assemble an object consisting of a paint tube entrapped in a plexiglass vice.





40. On Kawara (Japanese/American artist, b. 1933) *100 Year Calendar*. Single sheet of oil cloth containing calendar from 1901–2000.



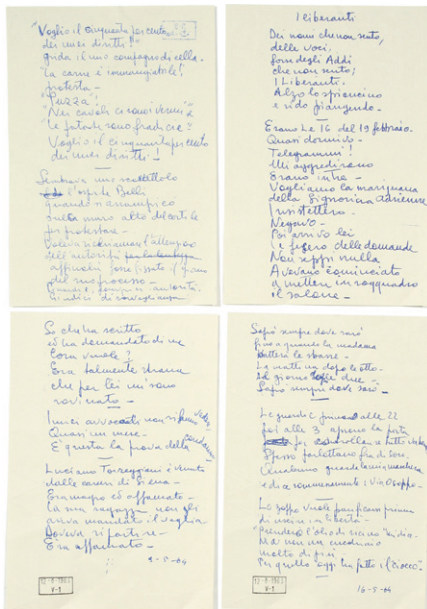
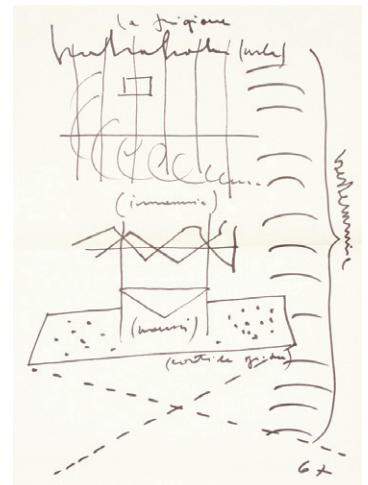
41. Robert Watts (American artist, 1923–1988) *Permanent Parking Decal*. Vinyl decal that makes the time indicator of a parking meter look like there is 45 minutes remaining.



42. Hollis Frampton (American artist, 1936–1984) *Phenakistiscope*. Paper disk with photographs for simulated motion.



43. Lil Picard (German/American artist, 1899–1994) *Burned Bow Tie*. Hand burned bow tie.



44. Domenico Rotella (Artist/poet, b. 1919) *6 Prison Poems*. Collection of poems and a sketch composed while Rotella was in prison in 1964 for marijuana possession.



45. La Monte Young (American composer, b. 1936) and Marian Zazeela (American artist, b. 1940) *Drift Study 4:37:405:09:50 5 VIII 68*. Cassette tape of composition by Young, cover design and packaging by Zazeela. Composition involves five sine-wave oscillators tuned to precise rational frequency ratios, recording the drift between phase angles that occur over time.*



46. Paul Bergtold (American artist, b. 1942) *Concept Bergtold*. Pink tissue folio containing two "Machine Art" compositions using a typewriter and Xerox reproductions of objects.

SMS No. 5: October 1968

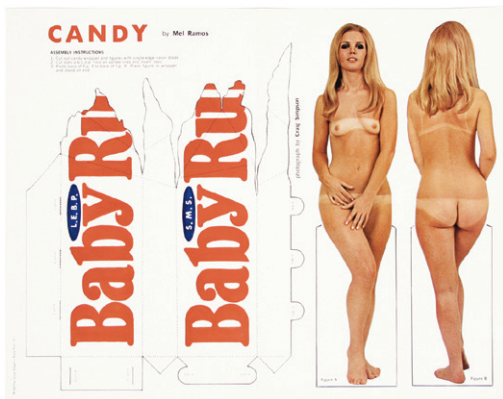


47. Congo (Chimpanzee, active 1960s) SMS 5 cover design. Painting by chimpanzee whose creative activity was documented by Desmond Morris in *The Naked Ape*.

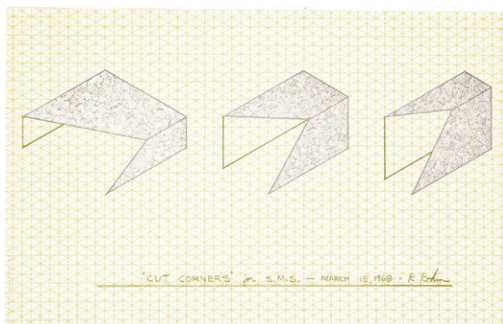
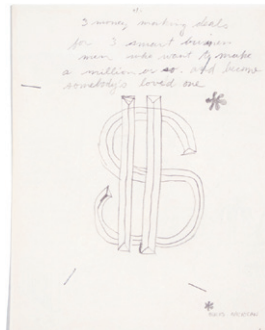
48. Yoko Ono (Japanese/American artist/composer, b. 1933) *Mend Piece for John*. Box containing materials and instructions to "Take your favorite cup. Break it in many pieces with a hammer. Repair it with this glue and this poem in three stanzas dedicated to John."



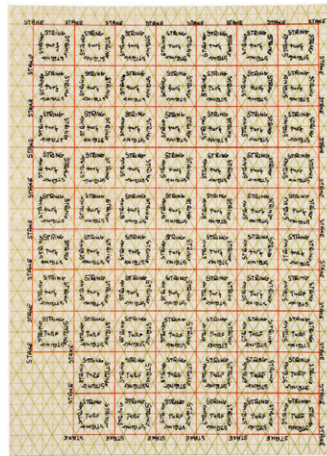
50. Neil Jenney (American artist, b. 1945) *Bucks American*. Four sheets of annotated pencil drawings that have been stapled shut for "3 money making deals for 3 smart businessmen who want to make a million or so and become somebody's loved one."



49. Mel Ramos (American artist, b. 1935) *Candy*. Materials and instructions for assembling three-dimensional sculpture.



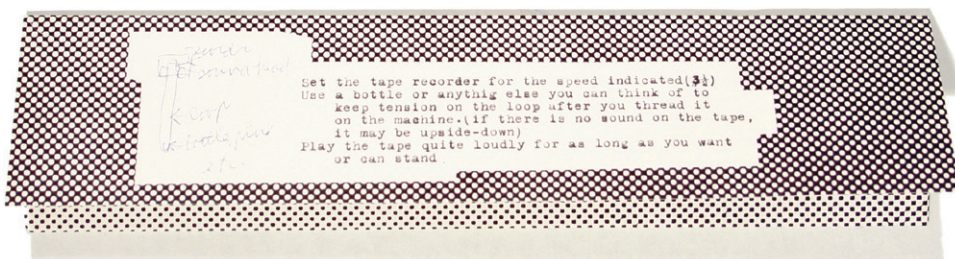
51. Robert Rohm (American artist, b. 1934) *Cut Corners*. Silver paper printed with pattern and scored for folding to form three sculptures.



52. Lawrence Weiner (American artist, b. 1940) *Turf, Stake and String*. Self-adhesive vinyl sheet with drawings.



53. Angus MacLise (American poet/musician, 1938–1979) *The Inner Pages*. 20 page booklet of automatic writing and calligraphy done as drawings and collages.



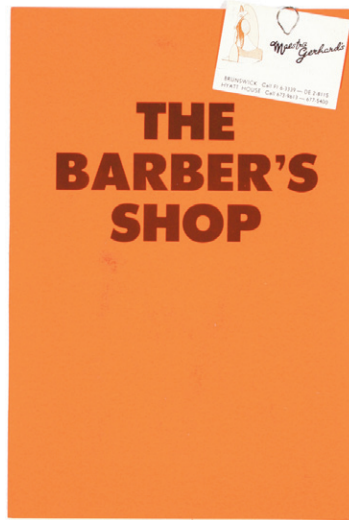
54. Bruce Nauman (American artist, 1941) *Footsteps*. Magnetic tape around card containing sound loop to be played "as loud and as long as you can stand it."



55. Edward Fitzgerald (American artist, b. 1927) *24 Still Lives*. Sheet of 24 color stamps depicting a still-life painting.



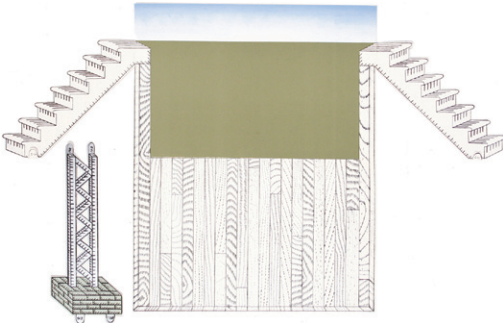
56. **William Anthony** (American artist, b. 1934) *Custer's Last Stand*. Inside cover drawing.



57. **William Copley** (American artist, 1919–1996) *The Barber's Shop*. Dossier documenting a Chicago barber's legal battle to reproduce a Picasso sculpture that had been donated to the city by the artist on his appointment cards.



58. **Diane Wakoski** (American poet, b. 1937) *The Magellanic Clouds*. Folder containing poem. The photographic portrait of the poet on the cover is impressed with grooves that allow it to be played as a recording of the poet reciting the poem inside.



59. **William Schwedler** (American artist, 1942–1982) *Against the Grain*. Instructions for constructing conceptual assemblage.

60. **Wall Batterton** (British artist, b. 1932) *Splendid Person*. Photograph.

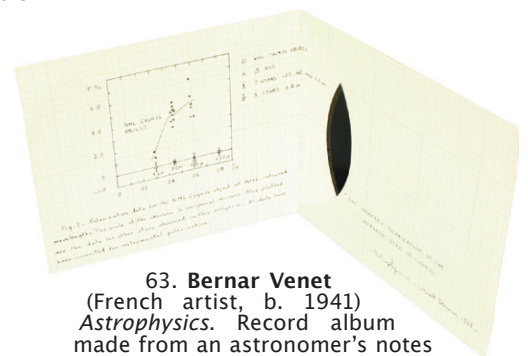


SMS No. 6: December 1968

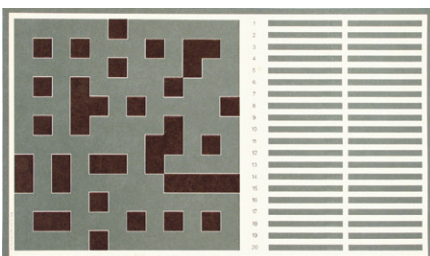
61. **Richard Artschwager** (American artist, b. 1924) SMS 6 cover design. Printed so that coffee stains on original artwork are visible.



62. **Ed Bernal** (American artist, b. 1937) *Self-Portrait*. Colored print of a still from a Frankenstein film.



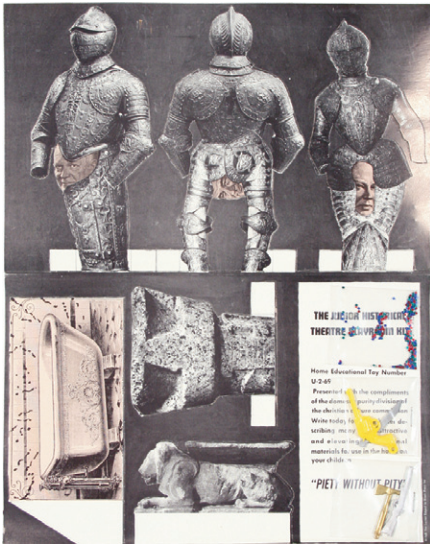
63. **Bernar Venet** (French artist, b. 1941) *Astrophysics*. Record album made from an astronomer's notes concerning the "Infrared Polarization of the Infrared Star in Cygnus."



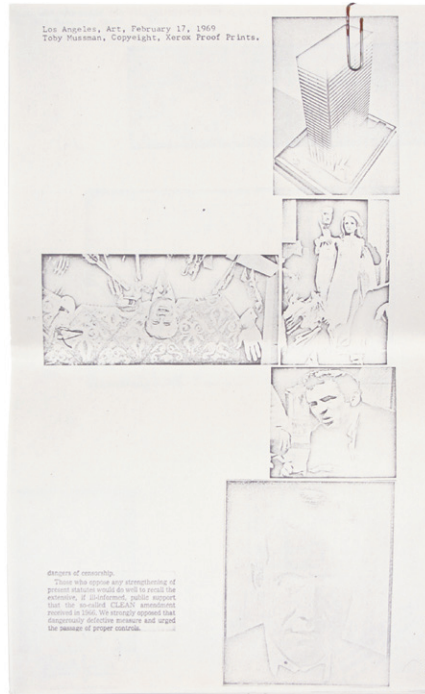
64. **Adrian Nutbeem** (British artist, b. 1946) *Twenty Down*. Embossed colored card conceptualizing a crossword puzzle.

65. **John Giorno** (American poet, b. 1936) *Chinese Fortune Game*. Silkscreened game cards based on a Chinese restaurant menu, slotted trays, and instructions in black portfolio case.





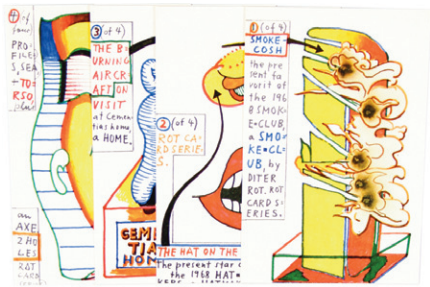
66. Mischa Petrov (Poet/filmmaker, b. 1927) *Junior Historical Theatre Playroom Kit*. Die-cut playset comprised of punch-out figures and plastic packets of miniature weapons.



67. Toby Mussman (American writer, b. 1940) *Ten Xerox Sheets*. Printed ephemera concerning Los Angeles life and culture, xeroxed with typed and hand-written notations.



68. Jean Reavey (British poet, wife of George Reavey) *Adora*. Surrealistic poem printed on paper, enclosed in a silk-screened aluminum binding with a seal that must be broken to open.



69. Diter Rot (German artist, b. 1934) *Chocolate Bar*. Four colored "trading cards." Intended to be accompanied by a sculptural chocolate bar, the inclusion of which proved to be unfeasible.



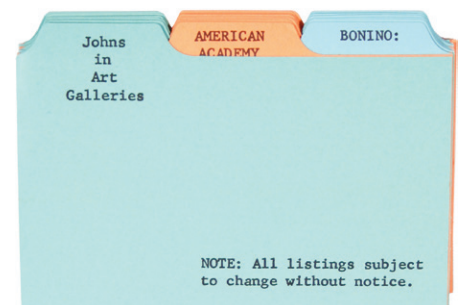
70. Claes Oldenburg (Swedish/American, b. 1929) *Unattended Lunches*. Hand-bound pamphlet with magic marker cover drawing containing typewritten pages of proposed menus of American food.



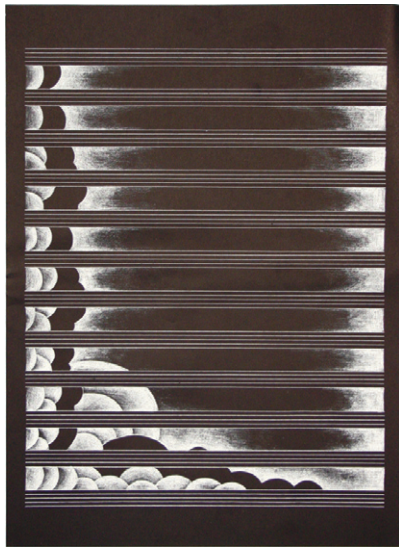
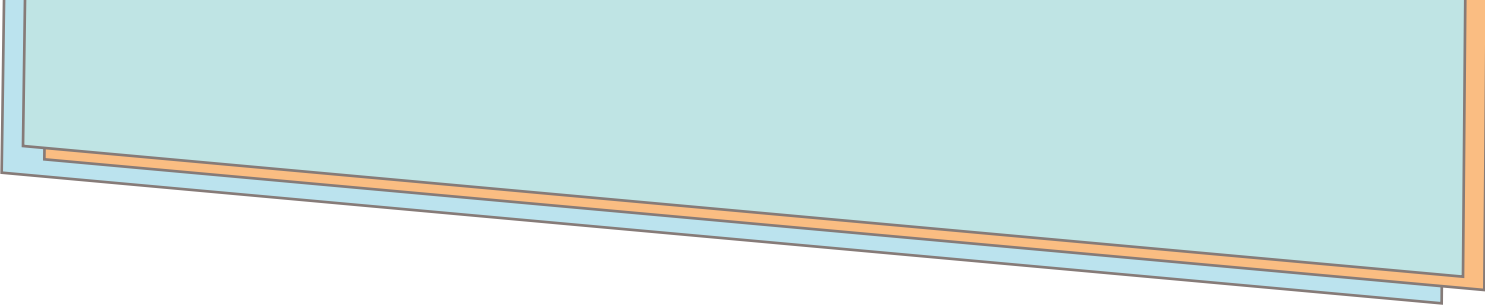
71. Betty Dodson (American artist, b. 1929) *Friends*. Erotic etching on wove paper encased in hot pink cellophane.



72. Ronoldo Ferri (Artist, b. 1932) *Neon Construction*. Pieces for assembling a construction from metallic die-cut paper rings.



73. Paul Steiner (American writer) *Johns in Art Galleries*. 24 index cards with typography.



see #26



see #42

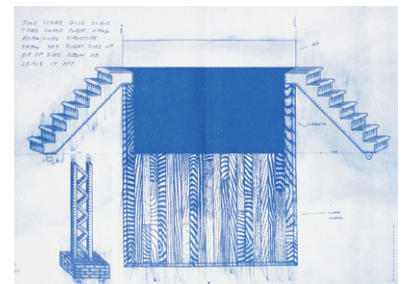


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* Originally produced in editions of only 25 for pre-paid subscribers to SMS, the Riley and Young cassette pieces were reissued in 1988 to complete a small number of sets for an exhibition at Reinhold-Brown Gallery, NY. Ours are from the later edition.

Catalog text by Emily Pothast. Photography and design by Shaun Kardinal.

Artwork descriptions adapted from *SMS: A Collection of Original Multiples*. Exhibition catalog. Published by Reinhold-Brown Gallery, NY. Oct. 1988.



see #59

DAVIDSON GALLERIES



see #31