

The 1993 "Spanish" Art Manifesto

A TIMELY REITERATION OF THE 1987 CONCEPT.

The activity of Spanish Art, know mistakenly since its categorization in 1987 variously as "Mail Art", "Networking", "Correspondence Art", etc., or at very worst, "Hyperculture", continues unabated. This is due, no doubt, to the lack of circulation of the 1987 Spanish Art Manifesto, which originated in Florence, Italy, and was grasped only by a few Italian and German "Spanish" Artists and member of AKUCN (Akademgorod United Cells Of Neoism). Though the initial wave of support was strong, it lacked the theoretical coherence to in any way effect the majority of English speaking "Spanish Artists", who, as a result, continued to think of themselves as "Mail Artists", or whatever. Recent events (most notably the persistence of "Mail Art", "Networking", etc.) have inspired this second attempt to set "The Mail Art Community" straight.

What is MAIL ART, etc? Mail art with its derivatives, pseudonyms, and equivalents, is an international subculture of people who transmit units of culture or personal correspondence over the various state and corporate subsidized communication systems (such as the Mail, Modem, Fax, Telephone, etc..) and who usually view themselves as consequently engaged in "Communication" with others in the subculture. The vast propensity of this subculture is an uncritical fetishization of the "form" of communication, which makes up for the fact that the content of the subcultures activity amounts to a heap of impersonal trivia. Like most mind-bending cults, persons engaging in this activity have a very hard time explaining it to outsiders, who correctly recognize the lack of content involved in sending "Personalized Photocopy Collages, etc." to people you have never met. Thus the subculture of "Mail Art, etc." is only of interest as an amusingly lost flock of sheep (a captive audience) to be cynically manipulated by elietists in the know (C.F. The highly worthy Art Strike of 1990-1993). The "International Spanish Art Network" (as it is now known) is so un-selfconsciously starved for social meaning by its own overproduction of trivia that it currently takes only a matter of weeks for a new idea or buzz-words to be uncomprehendingly picked up by the vast majority of "Spanish Artists" (Recent examples: SITUATIONIST, NEOISM, NETWORKER CONGRESS, POSTSTRUCTURALIST, PLAGIARISM, etc.). Henceforth, such openness is to be praised.

What is Spanish Art? In order to make "Mail Art, etc." worthy of participation, one must first determine the single most interesting aspect of the phenomenon and proceed to amplify that aspect until it becomes dominant. Without a doubt, the most interesting aspect of the subculture in 1987 was not its ability to create cultural anarchy or change the world; on the contrary, what was most interesting was the embarrassment and difficulty most "Mail Artists, etc." had in explaining their activity to the uninitiated (parents, friends, co-workers, postal workers, etc.). Usually unable to convince, they often floundered on the edge of sanity, forced into vague and hackneyed analogies to the very "Mainstream Artworld" they pretended to despise. **In order to intensify this discomfort, it was proposed in 1987 that the term "Spanish Art" be used to replace "Mail Art, etc."** The arbitrariness of the term kills any chances of a satisfying explanation for the phenomenon in a single stroke, and causes the Spanish Artist to loose face and self-definition. Spanish Art then becomes worthy.

Comrades, one more step if you want to become Spanish Artists! It is not enough to proclaim to the world that you are engaged in the practice of Spanish Art! You must think to yourself "I am a Spanish Artist". "Mail Art, etc." is anti-Spanish Art. Together we can revive this thing called Spanish Art and change the limited world of correspondence. Furthermore, a campaign of letter-bombings and murders will be carried out in 1994 against all american "Mail Artists, etc." who refuse to adopt the term. We are crazy enough to do it. We urge you to join "Spanish Art" now.

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*We are polluting Art as we are busy
tidying up Nature.*



MEDIA FAST 1992 DON'T BE THERE!

BEGINNING APRIL 22 1992, THE PEOPLE OF THE EARTH ARE ENCOURAGED TO ENGAGE IN AN EXPERIMENT OF UTMOST URGENCY. WE MUST TURN OFF THE ELECTRIC ENVIRONMENT FOR A PERIOD OF ONE WEEK TO PERFORM A CLEANSING OF MASS-MAN'S MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT. WE MUST GET BACK TO OUR BODIES, LEST WE FORGET THEY ARE STILL THERE! IMAGINE THE FREEDOM TO BE EXPERIENCED AS THE TOP-DOWN CULTURAL-CONTROL OF CIVILIZATION IS ERADICATED FOR EVEN THE BRIEFEST PERIOD!

IF EVERYONE DID PARTICIPATE IN THE MEDIA FAST, HOW WOULD WE KNOW IT HAPPENED?

STAY TUNED...

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