

2009 Highlights

January. Editor Tod Lippy is interviewed about *Esopus* via streaming video on Italy's TVN web television network. The Esopus Foundation receives a grant from the Jane Henson Foundation.

February. *Esopus 10* is awarded a Gold Medal "for Superb Craftsmanship in Production" from the Graphic Professionals Resource Network (IAPHC). The prestigious award is shared with Printcrafters/Westcan Printing, the company in Winnipeg, Canada, that has printed every issue of *Esopus*.

March. *Esopus* is included in the "We Love Magazines Library," an exhibition of international art magazines in Tokyo.

April. The Esopus Foundation receives notice of the renewal of its grants from the Peter and Carmen Lucia Buck Foundation and the Foundation for Contemporary Arts. Editor Tod Lippy is interviewed for a feature about *Esopus* on ORF/ Austrian National Radio.

May. *Esopus 12*, our second themed issue, printed in black ink only, is released. It includes artists' projects by Fiona Banner, Michael Iskowitz, and James Pyman, as well as 100 still frames from director Charles Burnett's classic 1977 film *Killer of Sheep* (with an essay by critic Armond White). Other contents include Stanley Greenberg's compelling photographs relating to 20th-century particle physics (with an essay by Harvard historian Peter Galison); recollections from a group of soldiers who performed in a tour of *The Fantasticks* on Vietnam's front lines in 1969; a complete facsimile edition of a 44-page 1974 artist's book by the late artist, writer, poet, and scientist Bern Porter; a new installment of the regular "Modern Artifacts" series with the MoMA archives featuring materials relating to painter Grace Hartigan (1922-2008), and more. The enclosed audio CD contains brand-new commissioned songs (inspired by black-and-white films) from Nina Nastasia, Me Succceeds, Miles Benjamin Anthony Robinson, The Sand Pebbles, The Caledonia Mission, DJ/rupture, The Ruby Suns, Sam Amidon, Two Dark Birds, Lisa Cerbone, and Nat Baldwin. Tod Lippy is invited on to John Richard's KEXP-FM show to play tracks from the issue's CD. A launch party for the new issue, featuring former *Esopus* contributor Britta Phillips as deejay, is held at Housing Works Bookstore Café on May 13. *Esopus* and The Jim Henson Legacy co-present sold-out screenings of Henson's film *Youth '68* (featured in *Esopus 11*) at 92Y/Tribeca in New York City.

Summer. The Esopus Foundation Ltd. launches Esopus Space. A capacity-building grant from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Arts enables the Foundation to move from its original 250-square-foot office to a substantially larger combined office and exhibition space in downtown New York. Esopus Space opens with a debut exhibition of 37 never-before-exhibited self-portraits by *Esopus 12* contributor Michael Iskowitz. The opening of the space and the show are celebrated with a reception for Esopus Foundation donors on July 14th and for the public on July 22nd. Editor Tod Lippy is a featured speaker at the 50th Annual Preconference of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. The Esopus Foundation receives renewals of its grants from the New York State Council on the Arts, New York City's Department of Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts.

September. Esopus Space's second exhibition opens: "Dwight Ripley: Travel Posters," features the thirteen ink-and-colored-pencil drawings from 1962 by artist, poet, linguist, botanist, and arts patron Dwight Ripley (1908-1973) that were originally featured in *Esopus 11*. Favorable reviews of the show appear in the *New York Press*, *Art on Paper* and on *Vogue.com*. An opening reception is held on September 10th.

October. The Control Group chooses Esopus Space to host a record release party for El Perro del Mar's album *Love Is Not Pop*. The night features an acoustic set by the former *Esopus* contributor, whose "Hello Goodbye" appeared on the *Esopus 7* "Ouija" CD. The Esopus Foundation receives a renewal of a grant from the Lily Auchincloss Foundation. On October 21, Tod Lippy and John Richards preview tracks from the *Esopus 13* "Nostradamus" CD on KEXP-FM's "John in the Morning."

November. *Esopus 13* is released. The issue includes artists' projects by Oliver Herring & Peter Krashes, Jeff Gibson, and Mickey Smith, as well as a portfolio of never-before-seen work by Alex Masket. Other contents include manuscript pages from poet Jennifer Moxley's 2007 memoir *The Middle Room*, new fiction from Kelly Sandoval, and artifacts from the collection of the late, esteemed rare books librarian Marjorie G. Wynne. Also featured are new installments of two regular *Esopus* series—"Modern Artifacts," which reproduces in facsimile materials from the MoMA archives, and "Guarded Opinions," featuring museum guards' impressions of the art they oversee. French historian Stéphane Gerson closes the issue with a fascinating analysis of visual representations of Nostradamus over the past 500 years. For the issue's themed CD, 11 musicians (including Laura Gibson, Frightened Rabbit, and Natureboy) create new songs inspired by Nostradamus's prophecies. The launch of the issue and the concurrent opening of "Side By Side," a group exhibition of works by the artists in *Esopus 13*, are celebrated on October 27th at Esopus Space. On November 17th, conceptual artist and *Esopus 5* contributor Mary Ellen Carroll offers the first New York presentation relating to her aggregate artwork "prototype 180." Esopus Space inaugurates its concert series on November 18th with a performance by Natureboy, the musical project of Sara Kermanshahi, who contributed a track to the *Esopus 13* "Nostradamus" CD. The Esopus Foundation receives a grant from the Coby Foundation.

December. *Esopus 9* contributor Kay Rosen celebrates the release of *AKAK* by Regency Arts Press with a party and book signing at Esopus Space.