

2008 Highlights for the Esopus Foundation

January. MoMA archivist Michelle Elligott's *Esopus 9* essay about a top-secret 1940 exhibition ultimately abandoned by the Museum's trustees is excerpted for the influential "Readings" section of *Harper's Monthly*. (This is the second *Esopus* piece to be featured in *Harper's*; Carter's Burwell's "Music at 6" from our inaugural issue was the first.) Artist and past *Esopus* contributor Chris Doyle offers 30 "subscriptions" to a series of watercolor drawings called "Housing Development Project." Each entitles purchasers to one new drawing every month for 12 months. Doyle generously donates half of the total cost of each subscription to a small list of non-profit enterprises that includes the Esopus Foundation.

February. The Esopus Foundation receives a grant from the Mondriaan Foundation to support the production costs of a hand-stitched project by Dutch artist Berend Strik in the forthcoming *Esopus 10*. Canon USA donates a proofing system to the magazine to ensure proper color reproduction on press.

March. The Foundation receives a grant from the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation. All paper for *Esopus 10* is generously donated by French paper mill ArjoWiggins. Mark Hogancamp, whose photographs debuted in *Esopus 5*, is featured in a segment of the Showtime series "This American Life," and his work is included in "Intimacies of Distant War," a group exhibition at the Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art in New Paltz, NY.

April. Back issues of *Esopus 7* sell out. Artist and former *Esopus* contributor Don Bachardy opens a show of recent work at New York City exhibition space White Columns co-curated by *Esopus* editor Tod Lippy. Back-issue content (presented in a custom-designed Flash player) continues to be added to the *Esopus* website, and includes Edward McPherson's "Ten Rivers to Cross" from *Esopus 2*; Andrea Dezsó's artist's project "Mamushka" from *Esopus 3*; and from *Esopus 4*, chef Jody Williams's personal memoir "Cuoca."

May. *Esopus 10* is released. It includes artists' projects by Yvonne Jacquette, Dulce Pinzón, and Berend Strik, and also features a series of color stills from *At Sea*, a film by acclaimed experimental filmmaker Peter Hutton, the never-before-seen "fictional" scientific drawings of Doug McNamara, an excerpt from a sewn poem by Jen Bervin, a selection of Robert Guest's lunch-box notes to his two children, short fiction by Lesley Clayton, and Angus Trumble's "1929 in Retrospect." In addition, *Esopus 10* includes new installments of two regular series: for "Modern Artifacts," selections from the sketchbooks of former MoMA director René d'Harnoncourt are reproduced, and for "Guarded Opinions," museum guard Berhanu Taffa offers his perspectives on a Monet landscape from the Corcoran Gallery of Art. The issue's audio CD takes "Good News" as its theme: For it, 12 musicians choose a piece of news which they've interpreted as positive and then craft a song based on it. Participants include Ryan Adams, Neko Case and Carl Newman, and Langhorne Slim. On May 14th, contributors, readers, and friends of *Esopus* gather at White Columns in Manhattan to celebrate the issue's release.

June. Specific Object names *Esopus* its "2007 Publication of the Year." Seattle-based public radio station KEXP includes The Real Tuesday Weld's "Love at the Death Hotel" (from the #10 "Good News" CD) on its 100th "Music that Matters" podcast (the second time an *Esopus* song has been featured on one of the influential station's podcasts). Man Man's "A Song for Liza" is featured as "Today's Top Tune" on Nic Harcourt's "Morning Becomes Eclectic" at KCRW as well. Full-length versions of CD tracks from all sold-out issues are posted on www.esopusmag.com for the first time.

July. The Esopus Foundation receives its first grant from New York City's Department of Cultural Affairs. Additional grants are awarded by the Peter and Carmen Lucia Buck Foundation, the LEF Foundation and Foundation for Contemporary Arts; the Esopus Foundation's Visual Arts grant from the New York State Council on the Arts is extended for a fourth year. NPR affiliate WNYC Radio interviews editor Tod Lippy about *Esopus 10*'s "Good News" CD on a segment of "Morning Edition."

August. *Esopus* posts more back issue content to its website, including Christopher Isherwood's work journals from his celebrated 1964 novel, *A Single Man*, and 22 drafts of *Generation*, by the Walt Whitman Award-winning poet Suji Kwock Kim, both from the *Esopus 6: Process* issue. *Esopus* editor Tod Lippy is a featured speaker at MTV's annual executive offsite conference.

September. *Esopus* counts the highest number of subscribers since its inception. On September 15th, in response to rising paper and production costs, *Esopus* raises its cover and subscription prices for the first time in five years and 10 issues.

October. *Esopus* is selected as one of 25 international magazines showcased in Rome, Italy, at the exhibition and conference "Belvedere #1." Editor Tod Lippy appears on KEXP's morning show, broadcast live in NYC, to talk about the *Esopus 11: Advice* CD, and to play songs from that compilation and earlier CDs. *Esopus* is lauded on New Zealand station 95bFM's "The Wire" series in a segment about publishing called "Paper Cuts." The Esopus Foundation receives a grant from the Lily Auchincloss Foundation.

November. *Esopus 11* is released. The issue includes artists' projects by Robert Therrien, Darina Karpov, and Jason Polan, who contributes over 100 drawings depicting *Esopus* subscribers' "favorite things about New York." The issue also includes the first appearance of late artist, poet, and botanist Dwight Ripley's "Travel Posters," stunning colored-pencil works on paper from 1962; an insider's perspective on filmmaking in Hollywood by screenwriter Dan Harris (*Superman Returns*); excerpts from an overlooked 1968 experimental film script by "Muppets" creator Jim Henson; the latest installment of the magazine's "Modern Artifacts" series with MoMA (introduced by Michelle Elligott) featuring facsimile pages from the museum's first guestbook; 100 frames from Argentinian filmmaker Lucrecia Martel's debut feature *La Ciénega* (2001), with an essay by Kent Jones, new fiction by Maureen O'Leary, Angus Trumble's "Year 1 in Retrospect," and a CD of brand-new songs, inspired by advice columns, from Shearwater, Lucky Dragons, Jenny Owen Youngs and 8 others. *Esopus* participates in the 11th Annual E/AB Fair in Manhattan, sponsoring a special project by artist Jason Polan. The prestigious International Association of Printing House Craftsmen awards *Esopus 10* with a gold medal in its 2008 "International Gallery of Excellence" Competition.