One more thing added to the world...

The phrase that constitutes my title is taken from the Borges story, “A Yellow Rose,” in Dreamtigers. It is the deathbed revelation of a famous author who, gazing at a flower in its vase beside him, grasps the ultimate inability of words to express its presence. It is typical of Borges’s writing that fate arrives with realizations that contradict the expectations of his characters. Merely dashing hopes, however, is not what Borges has in mind. Rather, if the author dies with the knowledge that he has misconstrued the effect of his writing, the body of his work is still something more now present in the world.

Borges’s great themes coalesce around the perilous relations that knowledge has to experience. There may be no other writer so engaged with the phantasmagorical aspects of textuality, and the various measures of distance between words and the things of the world. It is here that we may find the source of his appeal to book artists. The cartographers in Borges’s “On Rigor in Science,” who make a map of their empire in 1:1 scale; the universe somewhere, in “The Library of Babel,” which is made up of endless rooms of shelved books; the alien encyclopedia in “Tlön, Uqbar, Orbis Tertius,” that enters our world through accumulating interpretations; the unfortunate “Funes the Memorious,” whose fate it is to remember every instant of consciousness; and, perhaps grandest of all among Borges’s conceptions, “The Aleph,” in which every-

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thing in the world, from every angle, at every moment of time, hovers beneath the stairs in someone’s basement. The startlingly visual accounts in Borges’s stories are fertile conceptual ground for artists employing the means of the book toward the end of revelatory understanding.  

Buzz Spector  
Cornell University

EXHIBIT LIST
Images may be found at our website: borges.uiowa.edu, under “Events”

John Baldessari  
Fable, 1977  
Hamburg, Germany: Anatol AV und Filmproduktion

Isabel Barbuzza  
Universo/universe, 2007

Doug Beube  
The Silent Question, 2005

Doug Beube  
Volume, 2002

Christian Boltanski  
Archives, 1989  
Arles, France: Actes Sud

Christian Boltanski  
Inventory of Objects Belonging to a Young Woman of Charleston, 1991  
Charleston, SC: Spoleto Festival

Joe Brainard  
I Remember, 2001  
Portions of the book were published as I Remember (1970), I Remember More (1972), and More I Remember (1973)  
New York: Granary Books

Sophie Calle/ Jean Baudrillard  
Suite Vénitienne/ Please Follow Me, 1988  

Claude Closky  
Tout ce que je peux être, n.d.  
Limousin, France: Éditions F.R.A.C.

Claude Closky  
A 1000 Things to Do, 1996  
Paris, France: Éditions du jour Galerie Agnès B.

Brian Conley  
Decipherment of Linear X, 2004  
New York: Pierogi, Inc.

Meg Cranston  
As I Told You, 1989  
Los Angeles, CA: Marc Richards Gallery

Toni Dove  
Fugitive Concepts: A Libretto of Fragments: A Chorus, 1989

Kenneth Goldsmith  
No. 11 2.7.9310.20.96, 1997  
Great Barrington, MA: The Figures

Joseph Kosuth  
Purloined: a novel, 2000  
Cologne, Germany: Salon Verlag

Emma Kay  
Worldview, 1999  
London, England: Book Works

Sean Kernan  
The Secret Books, 1999

Jane Lackey  
Tips of the Slung: This is the Pun Fart
Meredith Lynn
The Aleph and other Stories

Ellen Lanyon
Transformations I: 1973-74, 1976
New York: Printed Matter

Sol LeWitt
Ficciones: Jorge Luis Borges, 1984
New York: Limited Editions Club

Sol LeWitt
Autobiography, 1980
New York: Multiples, Inc. and Lois and Michael K. Torf

Margot Lovejoy
Labyrinth, 1991
Purchase, NY: Center for Editions, SUNY College at Purchase

Lenore Malen
The New Society for Universal Harmony, 2005
New York: Granary Books

Joyce Carol Oates
Plagiarized Material by Fernandes, 1974
In Sparrow #19
Santa Barbara, CA: Black Sparrow Press

Daniel Olson
The Outline of History: a reconstituted index, 2004
Toronto, Ontario, Canada: Art Metropole

Barry Perlus
The Astronomical Observatories of Jai Singh II, 2001-2003
The Jai Prakash at the Delhi Observatory D_JP_5

Barry Perlus
The Astronomical Observatories of Jai Singh II, 2001-2003
The Ram Yantra at the Junipur Observatory J_RY_la
Spherical Rendering Off Axis

Karen Reimer, writing as Eve Rhymer
Legendary, Lexical, Loquacious Love, 1996
Chicago: Sara Ranchouse Publishing

Colin Sackett
Black Bob, 1989
London, England: Coracle

Sarah Seager
Excuse My Dust, 1992
Ghent, Belgium: Imschoot, Uitgevers

Michael Snow
Cover to Cover, 1975
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada: The Press of Nova Scotia College of Art and Design

Buzz Spector
Unpacking my Library, 1995
Cleveland, OH: Cleveland Center for Contemporary Art

Buzz Spector
Borges/Funes, 2005

Buzz Spector
The Irony, 2004

Telfer Stokes and Helen Douglas
Real Fiction: an inquiry into the bookeresque, 1987

Ulrich Tarlatt
Der Büchervächter, 1993

Jan Voss
Detour, 1989
Amsterdam, the Netherlands: Boekie Woekie

Heather Weston
Borges and I, 2001

Heather Weston
Book of Babel, 2001
Janet Zweig and Holly Anderson
Sheherezade, 1988
Long Island City, NY: Sherezade