

...ONE MORE THING ADDED TO THE WORLD...  
THE BORGES EFFECT IN CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS' BOOKS

*Curated by Buzz Spector*

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.

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#### EXHIBIT LIST

Images may be found at our website: [borges.uiowa.edu](http://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  
Seattle, WA: Bay Press, Paris, France: Éditions de l'Étoile, 1983

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*

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*The Irony, 2004*

Telfer Stokes and Helen Douglas

*Real Fiction: an inquiry into the bookeresque, 1987*

Rochester, NY: Visual Studies Workshop Press

Ulrich Tarlatt

*Der Bücherwächter, 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