BOOKS AND MAGAZINES

Title: *CIRCLE*, number five
Edited by: George Leite & Bern Porter
Date: 1945
Size: 23 x 15 cm - 86 pages
Cover photogram by Bern Porter made soon after atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

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Artist: Bern Porter
Title: *The Happy Rock, A book about Henry Miller*
Date: 1945
Size: 27 x 18,5 cm
Published by: Bern Porter
Porter considered this his first experimental book, with its multicolored pages, large art-book format, and simple line drawing of Miller drawn by Fernand Léger on its cover. The title is drawn from Miller’s 1938 novel *Tropic of Capricorn*: “You live like a happy rock in the midst of the ocean: you are fixed while everything about you is in turbulent motion.” The anthology includes contributions by Philip Lamantia, George Leite, Kenneth Patchen, and William Carlos Williams, among others.

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Artist: William Ross Cameron
Title: *David Copperfield in Copperplate*
Published by: Bern Porter
Date: 1947
This is one of the first books published by Bern Porter not written by Henry Miller. This one gathered forty-six illustrations for the famous Dickens’ novel augmented by interpretative short passages taken from the original text by William Ross Cameron.

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Artist: Dick Higgins
Title: *What are Legends, a clarification* By Dick Higgins
Published and illustrated by: Bern Porter
Date: 1960
Size: 21,5 x 14 cm
This is Dick Higgins’s first book, published and illustrated by Porter.
Artist: James Schevill
Title: Selected Poems, 1945-1959
Published by: Bern Porter Books
Date: 1960
Bern Porter published many books of James Schevill starting with his first in 1947. James Schevill also wrote a long biography about Bern Porter titled, Where to go, What to do, When you are Bern Porter.

Artist: Henry Miller
Title: What Henry Miller say and why it is important
Published by: Walton Press
Date: 1964

Artist: Bern Porter
Title: Dieresis
Self published (32 / 100)
Date: 1969
Size: 15 x 10, 5 cm
Available on request
This is Bern Porter’s first book of founds photographs. Its title refers to the umlaut, a diacritic symbol that indicates the division of two adjacent vowels into two syllables with different sounds. Porter experiments with the division of images. Here, a woman in a field of blank space faces a crane settled in a busy floral scene, opposing its stoicism with an exaggerated facial expression. The book is filled with similar juxtapositions brought together with visual clues.

Artist: Bern Porter
Title: I've Left
Published by: Something Else Press
Date: 1971
In I've Left, Porter proposes wild and revolutionary improvements to and uses for books, poetry, clothing, theater, architecture, art, food, toys, and automobiles. Among his ideas are playing cards with poems printed on them, bed sheets radiating classic literature, lawyer’s fees that may be paid in poems, spray-on suits sold in vending machines that can be disposed of in the toilet, 360-degree theaters in which the audience acts and light and heat produce emotion; buildings with “green” roofs that use solar and wind energy; ubiquitous art forms that make artists wealthy; food in pill form; toys for adults, called “the feelie,” “do das,” and “mallies” that rid hypertension; and smaller more fuel efficient cars.
Bern Porter and Dick Higgins (founder of Something Else Press) had a collaborative friendship, publishing each other's work, making books together, and performing with one another. In this book of founds, Porter continued to infuse the materials of a throwaway culture with new meaning.

Porter was fascinated with the telephone book despite never owning a telephone. He was interested in the way it promised communication and in the thousands of names and numbers listed inside. Porter alphabetized the pages of this book like a telephone book.

In the Wastemaker, which Porter considered his most successful artist's book, he repurposed the visual information Americans are bombarded with—newspaper articles, magazine ads, standardized tests, scientific documents, musical scores, junk mail, and instruction booklets. The juxtaposition of image and text emphasizes the ridiculousness and wastefulness of all this information.

Bern Porter created this book by altering a tourist magazine distributed for free to hotel rooms. It parodizes the traditional view of entertainment.
Artist: Dick Higgins  
Title: *City With All the Angles*  
Published by: Unpublished Editions  
Date: 1974  
Size: 21,5 x 14 cm  
This book presents a radio play by Dick Higgins with photographic illustrations by Bern Porter. Porter and Dick Higgins made a few books together, such as *What are Legends* and *Die Fabelhafte Getraüme von Taifun-Willi.*

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Artist: Bern Porter  
Title: *Run-On*  
Self-published (83/250)  
Date: 1975  
Size: 19 x 14 cm  
Porter collected and appropriated many photographs. This book is one of the two books his made of these images (*Dieresis* is the other one).

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Artist: Bern Porter  
Title: *Selected Found* (issued as *Croissant Pamphlet n°2*)  
Date: 1975  
Size: 22 x 14,5 cm – 100 copies  
Published by: Croissant & Company

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Artist: Bern Porter  
Title: *Gee-Whizzels*  
Date: 1977  
Published by: Bern Porter  
Size: 28 x 21,5 cm  
The book is full of phrases, foreign languages and nonsense words.

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Artist: Bern Porter  
Title: *Spanner Fourteen: American Strange*  
Date: 1978  
Size: 29,7 x 21 cm  
Spanner was a magazine which focuses on particular authors or subjects each issue. The number fourteen was dedicated to Bern Porter.
Artist: Bern Porter  
**Title:** *Bern! Porter! Interview!*  
Conducted by: Margaret Dunbar  
Published by: The Dog Ear Press  
Date: 1981  
Size: 21.5 x 14 cm  
This book presents a compilation of Bern Porter’s interviews with Margaret Dunbar, Ed Nell and Ty Grey.

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Artist: Bern Porter  
**Title:** *The Book of Do’s*  
Published by: The Dog Ear Press  
Date: 1982  
Size: 28 x 22 cm  
This book presents a compilation of Bern Porter’s collages made of imperative statements to do various activities. It is a companion volume to *Here Comes Everybody's Don't Book.*

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Artist: Bern Porter  
**Title:** *Here Comes Everybody’s Don’t Book*  
Published by: The Dog Ear Press  
Date: 1984  
Size: 28 x 21 cm  
This book presents a compilation of Bern Porter’s collages made from imperative statements not to do something. The title is a take-off on James Joyce's "Here Comes Everybody," a precursor to his *Finnegan's Wake.*

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Artist: Bern Porter  
**Title:** *Sweet End*  
Published by: The Dog Ear Press  
Date: 1989  
Size: 28 x 21.5 cm  
400 pages of founds by Bern Porter, all on the topic of death, destruction, annihilation, eradication, obliteration, extermination, decimation, and extinction.
Artist: Bern Porter
Title: Where to Go What to Do When You are Bern Porter, A Personal Biography by James Schevill
Published by: Tilbury House
Date: 1992
Size: 24 x 16 cm - 340 pages
Schevill, one of Porter's best and most trusted friends, based a large part of his biography upon interviews he had from 1987-1992 with Porter. As such, he tends to present Porter's life as Porter wished it to be remembered, leading to some inaccuracies in the commentary. But the book's value comes from Schevill's insightful interpretation of Porter's life and work, and a generous selection of Porter's work and photographs of Porter by Mark Melnicove that illustrates the book. There is also a useful bibliography.

Artist: Bern Porter
Title: Sounds That Arouse Me, Selected Writings
Edited by: Mark Melnicove
Published by: Tilbury House
Date: 1993
Size: 23 x 15,5 cm
This books presents a selection of Bern Porter’s writings.

Artist: Bern Porter
Title: SEe(MAN)TIC
Published by: Robert B. Menschel Photography Gallery
Edited by: Amy Hufnagel
Date: 1994
Size: 21,5 x 20 cm - 36 pages
Catalogue of a show curated by Amy Hufnagel at the Robert B. Menschel Photography Gallery in Syracuse, NY.

Artist: Bern Porter and Jack Saunders
Title: Crossfire
Published by: Roger Jackson
Date: 1997
Size: 14 cm x 10 cm
Jack Saunders was a self-published author and mail artist. This is a conversation between Bern Porter and him.
Artist : Bern Porter  
Title : *CRCNCL / A Sur Surrealistic Script*  
Date : 2008  
Size : 25,5 x 20,5 cm  
This publication was originally published in 1983. This second edition has been digitized for posterity and designed by mIEKAL aND.

Artist : Bern Porter  
Title : *Infreucombia*  
Date : 2008  
Size : 26 x 20,5 cm – 108 pages  
This publication is a first edition designed by mIEKAL aND and published in June 2008, after Bern Porter died. The manuscript, made when Bern Porter visited mIEKAL aND in 1989, was forgotten in the bottom of a file drawer until rediscovered by mIEKAL aND.

Artist : Bern Porter  
Title : *The Last Acts of Saint Fuck You*  
Published by : Xexoxial Editions  
Date : 2008 (1985)  
Size : 23 x 15 cm – 62 pages  
This publication was originally published by Xerox Sutra Editions in 1985. This present edition has been designed by mIEKAL aND.

Artist : Bern Porter  
Title : *Esopus 12 (with complete facsimile of Where to go / What to do / When in New York / Week of June 17, 1972)*  
Edited by : Tod Lippy  
Date : Spring 2009  
This issue of Esopus contains a complete facsimile of Porter's 1974 book, *Where to go / What to do / When in New York / Week of June 17, 1972*. The facsimile is beautifully printed and matches almost perfectly the original in paper, ink tonality, etc. This issue also contains an essay on Porter by Mark Melnicove titled "Bern Porter: A Found Essay."
Artist: Bern Porter  
Title: *Hold On To Your Hat*  
Published by: miEKAL And  
Date: 2013  
Size: 25 cm x 20 - 221 pages

This is the long-awaited collection of interviews and photos spanning 25 years in the life of Bern Porter wherein he reveals the secrets of forming *The Institute for Advanced Thinking*, growing up in Maine, observing the nature of plasma and the universe and how to design the perfect shoe and bake the perfect onion, as well as sharing anecdotes about famous personages from history that he may or may not have ever met and explaining why found poetry is the literature of the future.

**SOUNDS RECORDINGS**

Artist: Bern Porter, Dick Higgins & Charlie Morrow  
Title: *Found Sounds*  
Date: December 2, 1978  
Produced by: The New Wilderness Foundation  
30 min 22

In this recording Bern Porter reads and interprets the telephone book, while Higgins and Morrow perform in the background. Porter introduces the piece thus: « We must in our daily lives confront the phone book. The phone book, as you know, is one of the great barometers of our culture for one of the great technological devices. And it can be a very close and charming friend and it can be a hideous monster. »

Artist: Mark Melnicove & Bern Porter – The Eternal Poetry Festival  
Title: *For Our Friends in Germany*  
Date: 1979  
Side A: 31 min 20 / Side B: 31 min 03

A stream-of-consciousness sound poetry improvisation with fellow Maine publisher/writer Mark Melnicove. This is the first recording that Melnicove and Porter made together. They were traveling in a car to their first poetry performance in Bangor, Maine. Date of recording is December, 1979. The recording was done as a submission for a mail art exhibition in Germany.

Artist: Mark Melnicove & Bern Porter – The Eternal Poetry Festival  
Title: *Do Not Delay*  
Date: 1980  
1 min 59

Artist: Mark Melnicove & Bern Porter – The Eternal Poetry Festival
Title: *SHAVE*
Date: 1980
1 min 03

Artist: Mark Melnicove & Bern Porter – The Eternal Poetry Festival
Title: *May All Be Well*
1 min 06
Date: 1982
Recorded during a performance at Maine Poets Festival, Augusta, Maine. Text by Bern Porter.

Artist: Mark Melnicove & Bern Porter – The Eternal Poetry Festival
Title: *The Daily Regimen*
Date: 1984
6 min 59
A re-mixed version by Mark Melnicove from a live performance in Syracuse, NY. Text by Mark Melnicove.

Artist: Bern Porter
Title: Williamson Street Night
Date: 1989
Bern reading from Abraham Lincoln Gillespie’s work and Elizabeth Was reading « Rooms » by Gertude Stein. Note that all "readings" were renderings and not word-for-word.

VIDEOS

*Personally Speaking, with Patsy Wiggins*
27 min 22 sec
Date: 1993
An interview of Bern Porter on MPBN-TV in 1993.
Artist: Mark Melnicove

Joy Gows Where Confusion Was- A Film About, With, and Without Bern Porter

Date: 201

This movie was made by Mark Melnicove for Bern Porter’s show at the Museum of Modern Art New York, 2010, entitled «Lost and Found: The Work of Bern Porter». This show was curated by Rachael Morrison.

UCLA

24 min 40

Date: 2017

This video is a slideshow with pictures of Bern Porter’s work. The pictures were taken at the Special Collections in the UCLA Library, Los Angeles, by Alice Dusapin. The Library houses an immense collection of Bern Porter’s work, thanks to donations he made from the 1940s-70s. Many of the books he donated are unique, and can only be consulted on the spot. We invited Mark Melnicove (director of Bern Porter’s estate) to speak about Bern Porter’s work.

POSTERS, EPHEMERA & COLLAGES

Poster

Artist: Bern Porter
Title: What Henry Miller say and why it is important
Published by Walton Press
Date: unknown
Size: 23 x 15 cm

The text on this poster is taken from Porter’s book of the same name, first published in 1964. Miller’s uninhibited views about sex prompted Porter to write about the importance of understanding sex as a natural act intrinsic to all humans. Strange Faeces was a small press and magazine run by Nations, an artist, writer, musician, and publisher, who drew the illustrations for this poster.

Poster

Artist: Bern Porter
Title: The Last Acst of Saint Fuck You
Published by: Bern Porter
Date: 1975

Note: « an irrepressible wall-poster manifesto for anarcho-liberationists the world over. ». Note from Bern ! Porter ! Interview! conducted by Margaret Dunbar, published by the Dog Ear Press.
Postcard
Artist: Bern Porter and Mark Melnicove
Title: Act Confident
Published by: Alternative Press
Date: 1983

Ephemera
Artist: Bern Porter & Tom Bryan
Title: Not Famous Enough Americans
Date: 1984
This is a promotional pamphlet for Tom Bryan’s Pure Maple Syrup, made in Erieville, New York. In the 1980s Bryan created a series of short biographies he called Not Famous Enough Americans and printed them on the labels of his maple syrup bottles. Bryan is the founder and former director of Light Work, an organization in Syracuse dedicated to promoting photography through residencies, exhibitions, and publications.

Collage
Artist: Bern Porter
Title: Untitled collage on paper, signed
Size: 43 x 28 cm
Date: 1990

Collage
Artist: Bern Porter
Title: Untitled collage on paper, signed
Size: 43 x 28 cm
Date: 1992

Special thanks to Fredrik Averin, Anne-Laure Chamboissier, Diogo da Cruz, Justin Jaeckle, mIEKAL and, Douna Lim, Mark Melnicove, Theo Pesso, Baptiste Pintaux and Elisa Pone. www.ampersand-ampersand.com