

## 04 2017- INDEX - SELECTED WORKS @ AMPERSAND

### 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.

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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*.

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

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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.

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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.

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Artist : Bern Porter

Title : *Found Poems*

Date : 1972

Published by : Something Else Press

Size : 28 x 22 cm

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.

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Artist : Bern Porter

Title : *The Manhattan Telephone Book*

Published by : Abyss publication – 250 copies

Date : 1972

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.

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Artist : Bern Porter

Title : *The Wastemaker 1926-1961*

Date : 1972

Size : 21 x 14 cm

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.

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Artist : Bern Porter

Title : *Where to go / What to do / When in New York / Week of June 17, 1972*

Date : 1972

Size : 28 x 22 cm

Bern Porter created this book by altering a tourist magazine distributed for free to hotel rooms. It parodies the traditional view of entertainment.

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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 Geträume 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.

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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.

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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

Shevill, 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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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."

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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.

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## 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. »

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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.

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Artist : Mark Melnicove & Bern Porter – The Eternal Poetry Festival

Title : *Do Not Delay*

Date : 1980

1 min 59

Recorded in South Harpswell, Maine. Text by Bern Porter from his book *Found Poems* (1972).

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Artist : Mark Melnicove & Bern Porter – The Eternal Poetry Festival

Title : *SHAVE*

Date : 1980

1 min 03

Recorded in South Harpswell, Maine. Text by Bern Porter from his book *Found Poems* (1972).

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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.

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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.

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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.

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## VIDEOS

*Personally Speaking, with Patsy Wiggins*

27 min 22 sec

Date : 1993

An interview of Bern Porter on MPBN-TV in 1993.

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Artist : Mark Melnicove

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

Date : 2011 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.

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*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.

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## **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.

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Poster

Artist : Bern Porter

Title : *The Last Act 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.

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Postcard

Artist : Bern Porter and Mark Melnicove

Title : *Act Confident*

Published by: Alternative Press

Date : 1983

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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.

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Collage

Artist : Bern Porter

Title : Untitled collage on paper, signed

Size : 43 x 28 cm

Date : 1990

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Collage

Artist : Bern Porter

Title : Untitled collage on paper, signed

Size : 43 x 28 cm

Date : 1992

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