

# THE ISLAND CHOSE YOU

newspaper by nüans for the preview of the artist book Apogee and exhibition at Olive Garden, Williamsburg, New York / **Tuesday, June 7, 2011**



## **Thomas Kilpper -A Lighthouse for Lampedusa (exerpt from the diary) Saturday November 22nd 2008**

The Lampedusa camp is a prison-like closed off area. The migrants are not allowed to leave it. They are supposed to stay here for only a couple of days to make place for new arrivals. But in reality most of the inmates must hold out here for a couple of weeks if not months because the other refugee- camps and CPTs in Sicilly and Italy are full, too. Therefore the Lampedusa camp often is heavily overcrowded. The same is now: in the men's compartment the yard's floor is widely covered with mattresses. They are without blankets - some inmates have tinkered a makeshift coverage as sort of a 'roof' from taped plastic bags, fixed from the camps metal fence to the bottom of their mattress. Coming from Africa to Europe = sleeping rough in November! We get asked for cigarettes or a lighter... they are welcoming Francesca; she is the only one from the camps administration they can talk and communicate in their language.

One migrant tells of his crossings experience, where three others have been perished drowning in the sea. Two in Africa when they had to swim to the boat - one when they arrived at the shores in Lampedusa... But that is the only short opportunity to talk to one of the refugees, when the inspector goes into the building to check the medical department (if we can go in or if there are patients who could be embarrassed about our visit). Francesca, the interpreter helps translating. I wished to be able to do more interviews with the immigrants. But no way...

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**nüans**

**“Something’s familliar about  
these strangers like me”  
Tarzan (1999)**

## **JUNE 7, 7 pm ISCP SALON - OLIVE GARDEN**

Williamsburg / NYC

(Olive Street between Metropolitan Ave and Grand Str)

7.00 pm Christina Quinlan reading Dolly Freed

7.30 pm Jerry Goralnick reading Glen Rubsamen

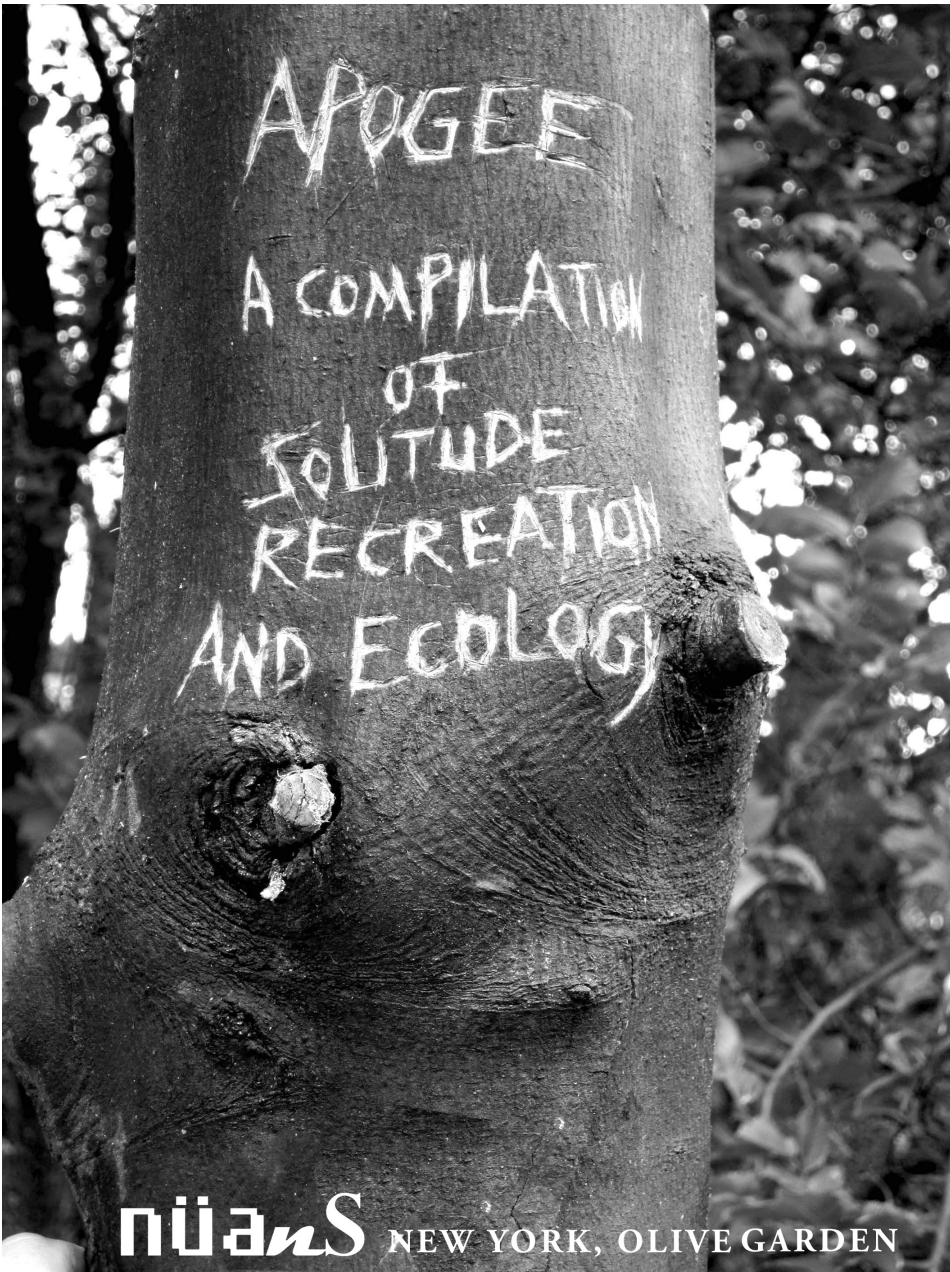
8.00 pm music by Kris Pabon & Humberto José Castello  
(Animal Tropical)

APOGEE -a compilation of solitude, ecology and recreation  
Artist Book of nüans, published by revolver in July 2011  
Order a book now!! [nuans@gmx.net](mailto:nuans@gmx.net)



Elmar Hermann, Prospect Park and Central Park, 2011





APOGEE refers to the point in the universe, that is the most distant to the earth. A mathematical quantity and allegory for the absolute seclusion and temporal relativity. APOGEE is the retreat to privacy, confidentiality and relaxation - a productive time out. Your public life begins as soon as you leave the island and get in touch with other people, Only absolute solitariness offers political asylum and a comfortable space for inconsistency.

The desire for isolation and social borderline experience is not new but fascinates humans for millennia. Some of the most fabulous works have been created far away from civilisation; for instance in the seclusion of medieval cloisters. A retreat like a commitment for a residency demands clear decisions: Waywardness or creative power? Robinson Crusoe or the Holy Scriptures? Romanticism or madness?

**"The lesson is that resilience is about flexibility. It's not just about exercising your strengths; it's also about exercising things which aren't your strengths. (...) It had nothing to do with logic; it was about the sensation, the feeling of the bone just bending in a really weird way. Then it became a thought: 'I can break my own bones.'"**  
**Aron Ralston, "127 hours" (2011)**

The author and extreme athlete Aron Ralston found himself in a morbid situation: During a mountain hike he fell and his arm got stuck in a crevice. It is difficult to reconstruct what was going on in his brain during the 127 hours. You can check your own flexibility: when I make an effort and bend my upper part of the body down as far as possible, I can touch my toes with my fingertips. By tightening my muscles my body creates some kind of a loop, a circle, self-contained and isolated, as in this position my head is level with my knees and I cannot hold a normal conversation at the same time. Sometimes - if my state of mind allows it - I can hold this position for one minute.. Thus I realize once again how limited my physical flexibility really

is despite all possible types of mobility.

It is my infinite fantasy though, that allows me to continuously overlook my corporal limitations. Again and again I become high-spirited and driven by flamboyant ideas. In extreme situations the mental potential boosts and the power of imagination excel itself. There's an idea, a curiosity and a necessity that pops up inside my head; electric impulses spread throughout the nerve tracts, chemicals are released and finally motoric processes are activated. The body functions, stays flexible and in turn motivates the mind to go on, not to give up. Circulating around its own center the body finds its own individual turning point.

**"My everyday life was temporarily but majorly restricted due to a broken leg from an accident. Suddenly I perceived a totally new, constructive world at home. My body, with a heavily stitched leg, an infinitely simple way of living and a change of space; a chair in the bathtub, a table under the table. It was a poetic experience."**  
**Maki Umehara (2011)**

**"My greatest wish -besides escape- was a book. A large book, with an unending story. A book which I could read again and again, on and on with new eyes and new understanding. "**  
**Yann Martel, "Life of Pi" (2001)**

The individual again requires cultural goods that are compiled collectively compiled. The power of imagination wants to be fed. In isolation the wasteland may overwhelm, civilization may fade. The castaway depends on acquired knowledge because from now on he relies on himself in all aspects of life. Withdrawn from his environment the worst case scenario is to fall into mental isolation, to stray all along his own brain squirms, without finding the exit himself. Everyone is responsible in maintaining contact with the outside world either via observation and interest, or rather via love and passion.

No matter how far one has removed himself, and where and how one has shipwrecked; at the latest, at that point, a strong interest arises to find a way back from the offside into society - if not direct, then at least by traces, letters, artworks, contributions....that one leaves on the island or that one sends away. With ease and excitement at the edge of different worlds, with love for art and friends.





## the music:

### **Animal Tropical**

Kris Pabon & Humberto José Castello, 8 pm

**“Cindy Rodriguez,  
too old to care about art.  
But thirty’s a good age to start,  
hanging pictures in your apartment”  
Animal Tropical (2009)**

## the readers:

### **Christina Quinlan**

reads “possum living” by Dolly Freed, 7.00 pm

### **Jerry Goralnick**

reads “Rhyncferrugineus” by Glen Rubsamen, 7.30 pm



## **Glen Rubsamen:**

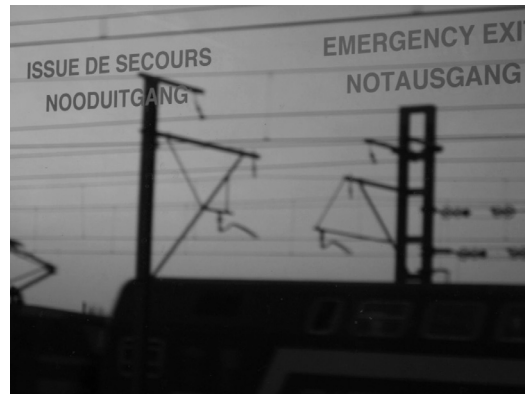
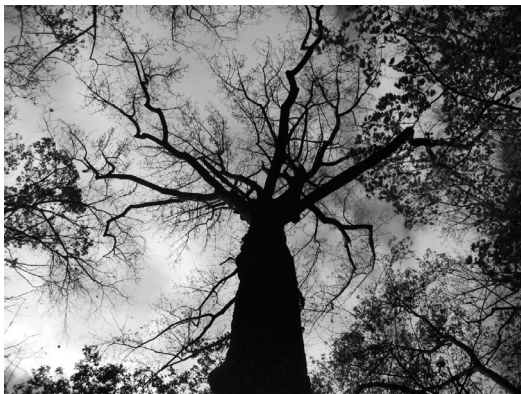
### **“Rhyncferrugineus” (excerpt)**

6pm. Finished up at the fair and checked in back at my hotel, ‘The Dorchester,’ another one of those Deco boutique hotels that line South Beach. The Fair management puts all the gallerists together in this hotel every year, so they can keep track of us, find us easily. The room is cramped, bed’s too big, overstuffed chairs, tiny closet, and the air conditioner vent has grey dust balls clinging to it’s dented louvers. Turned on the TV, Discovery channel, a show about the Red Palm Weevil, *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus*, that’s killing the palm trees all over the world. Hardest hit are the Middle East, North Africa and the Western Mediterranean countries, I guess three quarters of the Palms in Italy have died this year alone. It is relatively large as weevils go, between two and five centimeters long, and a rusty red color. The adult female lays approximately two hundred eggs on new growth in the crown of the palm, the eggs hatch into white legless larvae. These larvae can excavate holes up to a meter long in the trunk of a palm thereby weakening and eventually killing the host plant. When the tree is dead and the larvae grown they move on, able to fly up to two kilometers to find their next palm. The bug itself is quite elegant looking with it’s long snout and bright red coloring, looks like something from an ancient Egyptian sarcophagus.

Strange that nature allows a creature to exterminate its own livelihood, its own ecosystem. What will happen to the weevils when they finish eating the last palm tree? Maybe that’s the point, its really all about exterminating the ecosystem itself, so that some other completely different ecosystem can take its place, auto self-destruction! But stop, Enough Animal show! Turn off the TV and close the windows. I will try to lay down and get a quick nap before dinner. Tonight is the Scissor Sisters concert on the beach, got to get some rest. The last thing I remember is the air conditioning turning off for some reason....

**“Working primarily as a painter but also with drawing and printmaking, I am attempting to isolate the idea of a ‘post-nature’ defined as a place where space is shrinking, where objects in the landscape play no part in any synthesis; they have no memory, they simply bear witness during a journey.”  
Glen Rubsamen (2008)**





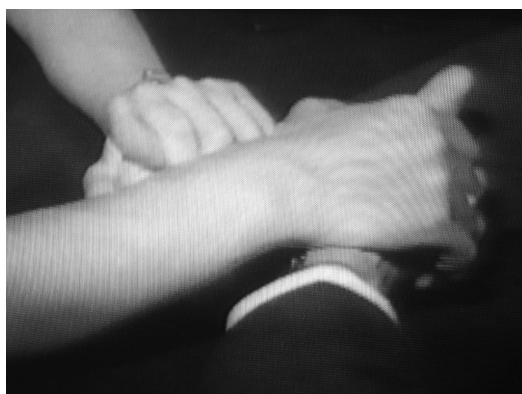
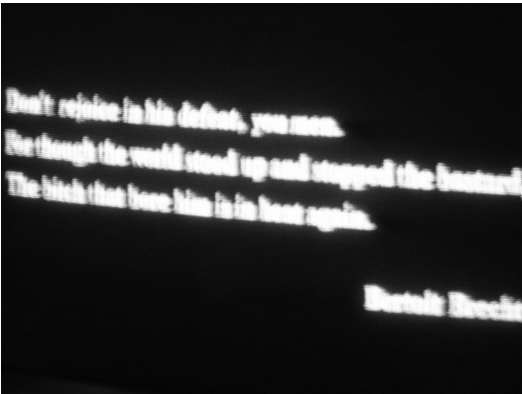
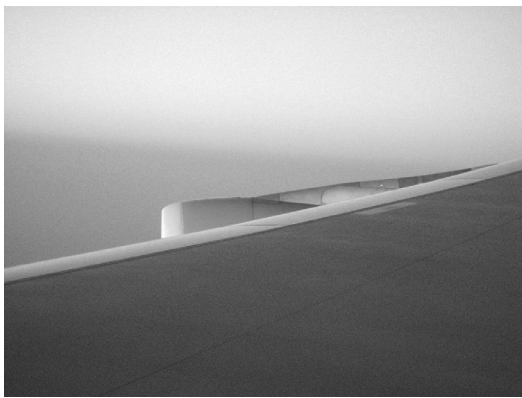
TURTLE is an open and anarchic network of diverse but interconnecting ideas, people, projects, events, and venues. Following an imposed period of inactivity and relative isolation, Shamberg reconnects with an international coterie of artists, writers, filmmakers, actors, musicians, dancers, architects... people, inviting proposals for readings, rantings, artworks, texts, performances and screenings. [www.turtlesalon.com](http://www.turtlesalon.com)

**Get at-shirt with Chris Marker logo from NEST**  
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Angelica Bergamini, clouds



Michael H. Shamberg, shipwreck songs 2003-05

***“The sun and the moon and the stars would have disappeared long ago ... had they happened to be within the reach of predatory human hands.”  
Henry Havelock Ellis (1923)***



**Dolly Freed:**  
**“Possum Living: How To Live Well**  
**Without A Job And With (Almost) No Money“**  
**(excerpt)**

Possum philosophy was actually formed over 2,000 years ago, and I needn't go into it further. A good example of it is in the Book of Ecclesiastes, in the Bible. Now that you have the over-all idea—is it for you? Possibly not. It depends on the instincts you were born with and your present family circumstances. For example, my Mom wants no part of “this squalor,” as she puts it. Daddy and I are instinctive possums—we break out in hives in elegant surroundings. Also, you have to trust your instincts. “Philosophize with a hammer,” as Nietzsche advocated, “testing idols to see if they ring true.” Does the money economy ring true for you? Does possum living ring true? It isn't enough that you know a false idol when you see one; your family must agree with you. If your kid gets the shakes when the TV goes on the blink, forget it. If your spouse gives you the fish-eye look when you mention rabbits in the cellar, forget it. If the thought of quitting your job blows your mind, don't do it. If it makes you feel good, on the other hand, do it! Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!

**“Why is it that people assume one must be a hippie, or live in some dreary wilderness, or be a folksy, hard-working, back-to-nature soybean-and-yogurt freak in order to largely bypass the money economy? My father and I have a house on a half-acre lot 40 miles north of Philadelphia, Pa. (hardly a pioneer homestead), maintain a middle-class facade, and live well without a job or regular income—and without working hard, either.”**  
**Dolly Freed (1978)**



Susanna Thornton

**“Tropical the island breeze**  
**All of nature wild and free**  
**This is where I long to be**  
**La isla bonita”**  
**Madonna (1987)**



Jessica Gispert, pussyfoot, 2011

Jessica will take the opportunity to explore a simulated mode of survival at the Olive Street Garden as fictional island space by including a hammock constructed with “du-rags.” She has changed the function of a contemporary urban personal accessory that is commonly used to cover and protect hair, into another utilitarian object at the “Olive island.”



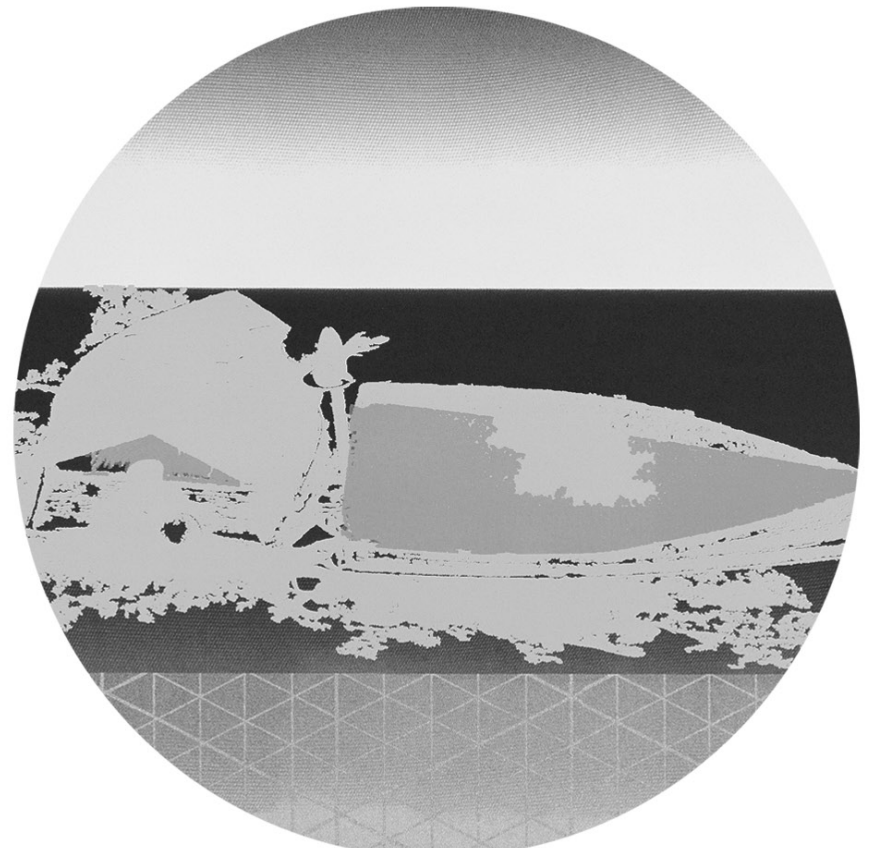
## **Jerry Goralnick: Open Call for a Nonviolent Revolution 2022**

I am calling for a world wide nonviolent revolution to begin in April of 2022. The period between now and then will be for study and action. Interested people will form study cells and groups will exchange reading lists and study guides and together we will create an encyclopedia of the revolution. The participants will decide what we want the outcome of the revolution to be and how we are to accomplish it. For the revolution to succeed, participants must go through a profound period of study, learn how to talk to others with different levels of interest and how to prepare for the different possible outcomes once the revolution starts. Some things may happen immediately and some may take years. We have to study the successful nonviolent revolutions and movements of the past and discuss all the available techniques for organizing our society. Different cultures will have different wants and needs and different resources. Lets stop reacting to the oppression and violence and create a culture that prevents before rather than reacts afterwards and work together to create a world where it is easier to be good. Please contact me if this interests you.  
JGoralnick@juno.com



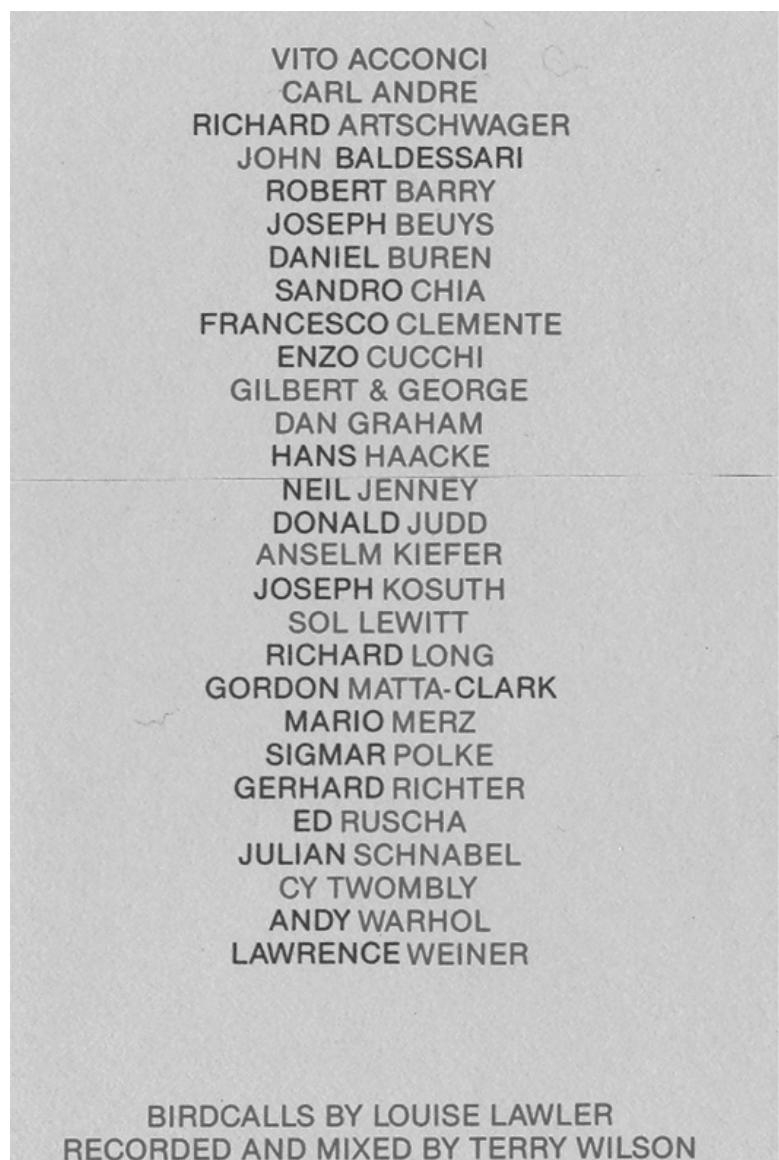
Anna Heidenhain, icon of liberty , 2011

***“No path can take you to where you already are.”***  
**Jeff Foster (life without a center)**



Maki Umehara, Transfiguration-Ukifune (Tale of Genji, 1008, Japan), 2009-11





## some general info/ contributors:

nüans is an artist collective organized by Anna Heidenhain, Elmar Hermann and Maki Umehara since 2006. Instead of being fixed to one place, nüanS looks for locations that fit the context of each specific intention. Their projects are interdisciplinary in order to bring about an exchange of ideas between a wide array of collaborators.

From the late 1970s onwards, Louise Lawler's work has focused on the presentation and marketing of artwork. "Bird-calls" (1972/1981) is an audiotape on which Lawler squeals, squawks, chirps, twitters, croaks, squeaks, and occasionally warbles the names—primarily the surnames—of twenty-eight contemporary male artists, from Vito Acconci to Lawrence Weiner.

Film producer Michael Shamberg is best known for his work with New Order, Lawrence Weiner. He has been organizing turtle an anarchic salon - an open and chaotic network of diverse but interconnecting ideas, people, projects, events, and venues. Following an imposed period of inactivity and relative isolation, Shamberg reconnects with an international coterie of artists, writers, filmmakers, actors, musicians, dancers, architects... see [www.turtlesalon.com](http://www.turtlesalon.com)



In 1978, at the age of 18, Dolly Freed wrote this manifesto called "Possum Living: How to Live Well Without a Job and With (Almost) No Money." In it, she explains how she and her dad lived on about \$700 a year and had a jolly old time in seclusion. Following her success as an author, Dolly has been a NASA aerospace engineer, environmental educator, business owner, and college professor.

Glen Rubsamen is a painter who was born in Los Angeles, California and studied at U.C.L.A., where he received his MFA. He currently lives and works in NY and Rome.

Jessica Gispert is an artist from Miami, FL, living and working in Brooklyn, NY. [creeper-blog.tumblr.com](http://creeper-blog.tumblr.com)

Kris Pabon & Humberto José Castello (Animal Tropical): "This Miami ensemble takes the Latin-based art funk that David Byrne made famous in the '80s and turned it on its head. Nonsensical lyrics about cockatiels and black magic, plus squiggly synths and angular rapid-fire rhythms, make Animal/Tropical odd and delightful." [www.animaltropicalband.com](http://www.animaltropicalband.com)

Susanna Thornton is a visual artist who makes photographs, films, videos, drawings and paintings. She travels extensively for her shoots and projects and exhibits her work internationally, most recently in Paris and her next forthcoming exhibition will be in Stockholm.

Angelica Bergamini is an Italian artist currently living in NY. In the context of the Turtle Salon island she shows her "Clouds".

Jerry Goralnick is a theater artist. He has performed with The Living Theatre for 25 years and with Reverend Billy's Church of Stop Shopping for the past 10 years. He is currently writing a play about Dorothy Day.

Originally from Miami, Christina Quinlan is a Cooper Union student currently making all sorts of 3-dimensional art in NY.

## Next Presentation of the book:

JB JURVE, 6 August - 20 September 2011

742 N Broadway, Los Angeles, CA, [www.jbjurve.com](http://www.jbjurve.com)

***"The island brought us here. This is no ordinary place, you've seen that, I know you have. But the island chose you, too. It's destiny."  
(LOST Exodus, Part Three [1.25])***