

*If you are interested in getting the complete set of Short Statements, that is easy. They will be available at my site in digital format, and I will gladly send prints to interested people for postage only*

## MAIL-ART ON WIKIPEDIA

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(selection)

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org>

When the electronic telecommunications network known as the Internet gave rise to e-mail art, conventional mail-art artists came to refer to the international postal service as the 'paper net' or snail-mail net. When a group of these artists are in some way linked through their works they are collectively referred to as a Mail Art Network or the Eternal Network.

The Mail-Art Network concept has roots in the work of earlier groups, including the Fluxus artists and the notion of 'multiples' or artworks manufactured as editions. Most commonly, Mail-Art Network artists have made and exchanged postcards, designed custom-made stamps or 'artistamps', and designed decorated or illustrated envelopes. But even large and unwieldy three-dimensional objects have been known to have been sent by Mail-Art Network artists, for many of whom the message and the medium are synonymous.

Fundamentally, mail art in the context of a Mail Art Network is a form of conceptual art. It is a 'movement' with no membership and no leaders.

Mail artists like to claim that mail art began when Cleopatra had herself delivered to Julius Caesar in a rolled-up carpet (although this was neither mail nor art). However, perhaps the initial genesis of mail art was in postal stationery, from which mail art is now typically distinguished (if not defined in its broadest sense). The first example of postal stationery was the pictorial design created by the English artist William Mulready (1786-1863) for mass printing-press reproduction on the first stock of prepaid postage wrappers or envelopes produced for the launch of the Penny Post in Britain in 1840.



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## MAIL-ART CHANGED MY LIFE

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BY RUUD JANSSEN

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**MAIL-ART**  
CHANGED MY LIFE

# MAIL-ART CHANGED MY LIFE

That Mail-Art tends to changes one's life is no secret. Actually that happened to quite a lot of us Mail-artists. Life itself brings changes too, but what specific changes can Mail-Art bring?

## THE WORLD GETS GLOBAL

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Also before the Internet was widely accessible for us, the mail-art network was a network where a lot of artist from different countries where communicating and exchanging ideas. I was in contact with China, Korea, Russia, Eastern-Europe, USA, and that all without travelling. The Post-box was the place where all came in. The mailbox where I sent my ideas to before they start their journey.

## TRAVELLING

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As you might have read in the publication "25 years in mail-Art" the mail-art network also (see: <http://www.lulu.com/content/2069048>) sent me on the way. Travels to Belgium, France, Italy, Switzerland, Russia, Estonia, Germany, Greece, USA, England. Not vacations anymore but the visiting of people one is in contact with too. As named by H.R. Fricker: Tourism effected my life quite a bit. The world itself became a smaller place

*Has MAIL-ART changed your Life? If so, write down the changes and share them with us.*

## COMPUTERS

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The use of computers in my life and the learning of how things work with computers is a constant factor in my life. Not as a technician, but the creative use of the powers these machines give. In the 70-ies writing programs and using punch hole cards, in the 80-ies first experiments with data-communication and sending e-mails I also started with a digital version of the TAM-Bulletin in the TBHS (TAM Bulletin Host System). In the 90-ies integrating E-mails as a communication form in the Mail-Interview project where the electronic highway changed the views of many mail-artists. In the 90-ies also using the first graphical programs to make new designs and logo's and write the things one wants to say. Also starting with websites as early as 1996 (that was the year the IUOMA-website was started; 12 years ago)

## WEBSITES

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The new generation takes the Internet for granted and use them like they were always there. But Networks and digital environments have changed mail-art a lot too. Projects start on a Blog and after the sending of materials to the organizer the final Blog is the documentation. Sometimes a publication is still made. Digital publications are available first and can be bought as a book if the receiver wants to finance it (The LuLu concept works and makes the information available for everybody).

## RUBBERSTAMPS

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Since I was a child I had my rubberstamps. It was then quite expensive and difficult to get

ones own design. Nowadays the shops even have them in their assortment and the special rubberstamps can be order online with only a very short delivery time. The Rubberstamp that I will place on this brochure (Mail-Art changed my life) I ordered at the large online firm [www.naamo.nl](http://www.naamo.nl) where they can just make anything you want. The stamp (a self-inking machine) with perfect quality costed me only about 12 Euro's. The need for rubberstamps is still there. The quickest way to place a text on just any form of paper is with a stamp. A computer can't beat that.

## MARRIAGE

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Another change that Mail-Art brought me is quite special. One of the mail-art contacts was from the start so interesting that it went from correspondance into travelling to each other until we decided to move to Breda together in our new house as man and wife. The rubberstamps I ordered is in a way also a bit to keep that in kind.

## FUTURE?

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Changes are coming to us all the time. You never know what kind of mailing comes in your mailbox and gives your life another change. Being open for communication means that you are open for changes. Positive and negative changes. Remember the positive ones. Learn from the negative ones. But be willing to change your life to make it a better one.