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MAIL-ART ON WIKIPEDIA

(selection)

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

Mail art is art which uses the postal system as a medium. The term "mail art" can refer to an individual message, the medium through which it is sent, and an art movement.

Mail artists typically exchange ephemera in the form of illustrated letters; zines; rubberstamped, decorated, or illustrated envelopes; artist trading cards; postcards; artistamps; faux postage; mail-interviews; naked mail; friendship books, decos and three-dimensional objects.

An amorphous international mail art network, involving thousands of participants in over fifty countries, evolved between the 1950s and the 1990s from the work of Ray Johnson. ^{[[citation needed](#)]} It was influenced by other movements, including Dada and Fluxus.

One theme in mail art is that of *commerce-free exchange*; early mail art was, in part, a snub of gallery art, juried shows, and

exclusivity in art. A saying in the mail art movement is "senders receive," meaning that one must not expect mail art to be sent to them unless they are also actively participating in the movement.

There is a rich history of creative examples sent through the post. The most familiar example is the illustrations on envelopes carrying first day issue postage stamps, which philatelists refer to as *first day covers*, but mail art encompasses other "decorated envelopes" as well as a wide range of other procedures and media such as rubber stamps and artistamps. Mail art is traditionally, though not always, distinguished from simply "mailed art," which is art that does not truly *use* the postal service but is simply regular art when sent through the mail.



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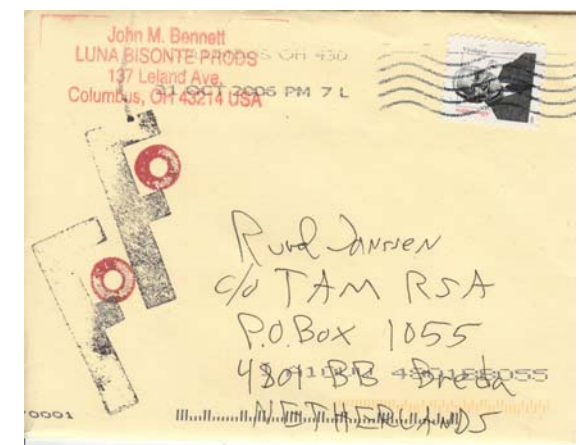
P.O. Box 1055
4801 BB Breda, Nederland
e-mail: info@iuoma.org
URL: www.iuoma.org

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MAIL-ART

SHORT STATEMENTS ABOUT MAIL-ART BY RUUD JANSSEN

Mail-Art by the postal system



MAIL-ART BY THE POSTAL SYSTEM

When you have this brochure in your hands you belong probably to the category of people who know what mail-art is. But do you really know what it is? After being working in the field for 27 years I still don't.....

INTRODUCTION

The postal system is changing rapidly. The traditional envelope and postcard isn't the basic communication-tool for our new generation. If you are over 40, you probably know this. If you are under 30 you might think this is common knowledge. If you are under 20, you might be surprised to see a text like this on paper and wonder if you can get it digitally.....

WILL THE POSTAL SYSTEM SURVIVE?

Here in the Netherlands the news that came from TNT (yes, the postal Office is privatized and has its own name) is disturbing. They will decrease the number of employees with 7.000 or 11.000 because of the competition with others. Sending packages, letters and cards isn't enough source for income for them

The second FOLDER for you to read. I plan to publish several more in the coming years. Feel free to copy or distribute, but mention source and don't alter the text.

EXPERIENCES WITH THE OLD POSTAL SYSTEM

In 1980 I started with my first experiments testing the postal system. Would they pass on my creative works where I also bending their rules. I have cut up the postage stamps, sent plastic bottles, used unknown addresses, and caused them a lot of extra work. When I asked them formally if they mind that artists do this I got formal letters from them in which they confirm they support artists using their postal system.

WHAT IS THE POSTAL SYSTEM?

There is a problem when we talk about the 'postal system'. The older generation has a different concept compared to the new generation. For them the e-mail, MSN, I-Phones is included in their world of communication. The envelope has not a fixed place in their world. They connect it to the old-fashioned world where communication and time were enemies. If a message goes from Sender A to receiver B through medium C, the medium determines the time that the information is available for the receiver. That could be some days, but the new tools make the factor C obsolete. Whether a receiver gets the information is just a matter of how modern he is. Getting information is a normal process for us human beings. Through our ears, eyes and mouth we have the tools for it. But getting information from far away without a time-delay, that is what is changing our world today

FUTURE?

In 1988 I already had my BBS running. Electronic communication is something I explore for many years. I enjoy the paper world but realize the electronic world is taking over. I also work with students that grow up with these modern tools and try to explain them the basics in the world of computers.

The future is already there. The paper world is slowly changed. E-mails, SMS, E-tickets. A small sample is when we want to buy a ticket for train or plane. You get an E-ticket that is stored in a database. When you scan in your passport a boarding pass automatically is printed. In a next step biometrics will recognize you and even this last paper won't be needed.

Will mail-artists still exist? The essence of a mail-artist is that he uses the postal communication-tools as a medium for his art. If the medium changes from paper into electronic data, the mail-artists change too. The old generation hold on to paper while the new generation mail-artists document things on websites and blogs.

Art on paper will survive for sure. Communication by the use of paper? That might stop on of these days.

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