

L.A. LOUVER, Inc.

POETRY FLASH
P.O. Box 4172
Berkeley, CA 94704

55 N. Venice Blvd.
Venice, CA 90291
(310) 822-4955
FAX (310) 821-7529

Number 231
June 1992

Free

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Berkeley, CA
Permit No. 770

Poetry Flash

A Poetry Review & Literary Calendar for the West

David Meltzer, known for his sixties poet band, *The Serpent Power*; for his teaching at New College of California's Poetics Program; for being a long-time member of the Board of Directors of the Before Columbus Foundation; and of course, for his own poetry, will give a rare reading at the Gallery Paule Anglim in San Francisco on June 30, and at Beyond Baroque Literary/Arts Center in Venice, near L.A., with Michael McClure on June 26. David Meltzer also co-edited the noted issue of *Journal for the Protection of All Beings* (with McClure, Ferlinghetti and Gary Snyder) that was published as an issue of the *Co-Evolutionary Quarterly*, and he edited and published *TREE*, an annual journal devoted to the interpretation of classic and contemporary Kabbalah through translated texts and original works.

Both readings, north and south, are being held in conjunction with separate exhibits associated with the work of the artist Wallace Berman. The Gallery Paule Anglim is exhibiting "Sight/Vision: The Urban Milieu III," which includes the work of artists Wallace Berman, Bruce Conner, Jay DeFeo, Wally Hedrick, George Herms, and Jess, companion of the late poet Robert Duncan, curated by poet and art critic Bill Berkson.

The Beyond Baroque reading, with McClure, features films from the period by Stan Brakhage, Larry Jordan and Wallace Berman, and celebrates the L.A. Louver exhibit of Wallace Berman's extraordinary publication, *SEMINA*, published from the mid-fifties to the mid-sixties. The exhibit, "Poem Makers: Wallace Berman, George Herms, and Jess," showcases an extraordinary limited edition facsimile version of *SEMINA* volumes 1-9, supervised throughout by Berman's fellow artist and friend, George Herms, and recently printed by Alastair Johnston of Poltroon Press in Oakland. Berman, who died in a car crash on his fiftieth birthday in 1976, "hand printed the volumes, individually typesetting the poems and literature and setting them within interior pockets together with photographs of friends and artworks... presaging important movements such as mail art, Fluxus and Conceptual art. By selecting the artists, poets and writers who contributed works, these volumes are as much a statement about the contemporary artistic and literary zeitgeist as they are about Berman himself... Rather than create a more traditional art journal which might reproduce 'high' art images of religious subject matter, genre or landscape scenes, Berman focused on representing the artistic and literary avant-garde which resonated within the Beat Generation and the then fledgling and marginalized artistic community in Los Angeles." No one could subscribe to this remarkable magazine — the only way to receive it was to be a lucky listing in Berman's address book.

Contributors to *SEMINA* included William Burroughs (the first American printing of part of *Naked Lunch*), Jean Cocteau, Allen Ginsberg, Michael McClure, David Meltzer, Robert Duncan, Charles Bukowski, Philip Lamantia, John Weiners, and Bob Kaufman. See Calendar for details.

■ L.A. LOUVER GALLERY, VENICE: L.A. Louver announces an extraordinary exhibition, "Poem Makers: Wallace Berman, George Herms, and Jess," June 5-June 27, which showcases the publication of a limited edition facsimile version of *SEMINA*, volumes 1-9, a magazine by artist Wallace Berman (1926-1976). These collections of poems, photographs, and art set in interior pockets were hand published in editions of no more than 300 and distributed to friends by Wallace Berman. It will be on exhibit along with original documents and photographs belonging to Jess (artist and companion of the late poet Robert Duncan) and art from the Berman archives. The facsimile was printed by Alastair Johnston of Poltroon Press, Oakland. In conjunction with the exhibition, Michael McClure and David Meltzer, both contributors to *SEMINA*, will read their poetry on June 26 at 8:30, at Beyond Baroque in Venice. Gallery hours: Tuesdays-Saturday, noon-5:00. L.A. Louver has two exhibit locations: 55 N. Venice Blvd. and 77 Market Street, (310) 822-4955.