



THE ROCKET FOUR

During an artist book workshop held in Poestenkill, NY in August 1997, at the invitation of Gunnar Kaldewey, four publishers of artist books agreed to organize a tour of exhibitions in an unspecified number of places on four continents over the next few years. These exhibitions of The Rocket Four are intended to increase the visibility of artist books beyond those efforts and activities each press does on its own. The somewhat obscure name is indebted to Luis Angel Parra (of Arte Dos Gráfico), who uses a rocket gesture as a symbol of activity, optimism and zest for life.

"The world, as we sense it, is an apparatus of great complexity and our experience within it, an amalgam of sense and recollection and dream, does not yield to a comprehensive inquiry or description. . . . An artist book, composed of its complex elements, is an object like the world is, full of movement and sight and sound. But this small world can be returned to again and again in its unchanging state, can be held in the hand; this smaller world can be apprehended. This is why we make books; to see them and comprehend what they are a part of."

Hank Hine

Arte Dos Gráfico
Bogotá, Colombia

Kaldewey Press & Edition Kaldewey
Poestenkill, NY & New York, NY

Limestone Press & Hank Hine Editions
San Francisco & Tampa, FL

Turkey Press & Edition Reese
Isla Vista, CA

Since 1999, exhibitions of the artists' books of The Rocket Four have been held, among other places, at the Julie Cencebaugh Gallery in New York, NY; the Deutsche Bucherei in Leipzig, Germany; Galerie Depping in Münster; the Stiftung Buchkunst (at the Deutsche Bibliothek) in Frankfurt; the Luis Angel Arango Library, in Bogotá, Colombia; and the Lilly Library, Indiana University.

The next exhibition will be held at the Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum (CAF) from April 18 to May 30, 2004. CAF is located at 653 Paseo Nuevo, Santa Barbara, CA 93101, (805) 966-5373. The opening reception is on Saturday, April 17, from 5-7 pm. A series of readings, panel discussions, and conversations are planned for CAF, the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, and the University of California, Santa Barbara campus during April 15-17, and May 13-15.

A catalog that features the work of these four presses, with a cover drawing by Richard Tuttle, is available. Produced in Stuttgart by Cantz, it has an introductory essay by Dr. Wulf von Lucius printed in English, Spanish, French and German. The catalog, divided into four sections, presents a complete bibliography (up to 1999) and 16 pages of color reproductions of selected work from each press. The paperbound book measures 8.5" x 13", 112 pages. Price: \$20. A hardbound copy costs \$40.

For information about CAF, see: <http://www.sbcaf.org>
For the schedule of events, see: <http://www.rocketfour.com>

Harry Reese, Professor & Chair
Print & Book Arts. Department of Art Studio
University of California, Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, CA 93106
(805) 893-4624 office • (805) 893-7206 fax
reese@arts.ucsb.edu • <http://www.turkeypress.net>