

Dieter Roth

Unique Editions

October 19- November 25, 2006

Opening: Thursday, October 19 from 6-8 PM

Dieter Roth: Unique Editions is a two-gallery exhibition of German-born, Swiss artist, Dieter Roth. Carolina Nitsch Contemporary Art hosts unique graphics/editions (October 12 - December 18) and Josée Bienvenu Gallery presents the books (October 19 - November 25th). Curated by Matthew Zucker, this exhibition highlights the originality of Roth's books and editions, which had, until recently, previously been known primarily through underground channels.

Roth's editions of books, graphics and multiples exhibited here are one-of-a-kind works of art. These contradictions in forms unique books, unique graphics, and unique multiples reflect Roth's defiance of convention and its eternal return of the same. Roth eschewed traditional artistic procedures, for example, by slicing up newspaper pages to make microbooks including, for example, *The Daily Mirror Book* (1961), a miniscule book made out of pages from the British tabloid, *The Daily Mirror*; the artist also regularly made use of non-art mediums such as chocolate, cheese, sausage, and banana to create unique, frequently fugitive works.

What distinguishes this exhibition is that at least two examples of each edition are displayed together, demonstrating Roth's exploration of difference within structures of sameness. This comparative exhibition of Roth's editions clearly demonstrates the variety of the artist's editions, thus challenging commonly held ideas of what constitutes an edition.

Along with Ed Ruscha, Dieter Roth (1930 - 1998) is a pioneer of the modern artists book. His first and mostly unique books included children's books and hand-cut slot books dating from the mid-1950s, several years before Ruscha published his first title in 1963. Roth's books/editions constituted the works to which he was most passionately committed; they were also the ones on which his original reputation was built in Europe during the late-1960s and early 1970s; (his first major museum shows were all retrospectives of books and editions). Roth also was among the first to experiment with printing in organic materials--chocolate as early as 1964 and later with cheese another notable association with Ruscha.

Dieter Roth created the majority of works in this exhibition in his own studio, seizing control of most aspects of the creative and publishing process. With this hands on, do-it-yourself approach, Roth created unique books, prints, and editions challenging conventional genres; these are arguably becoming his most significant contributions to art history. They are also central to understanding this artist's uniquely contradictory oeuvre that has influenced countless artists, including Martin Kippenberger and Jason Rhodes.

For more information, contact Josée Bienvenu at 212 206 7990 and Carolina Nitsch at 212 463 0610

