

Detail in Process. Princeton Architectural, dist. by Chronicle. (AsBuilt, Vol. 2). 2008. 208p. ed. by Christine Killory & René Davids. photogs. ISBN 978-1-56898-718-7. \$65.

ARCHITECTURE

This second installment of Princeton Architectural Press's "AsBuilt" series continues examining the synthesis of architectural design and engineering know-how. The editors, award-winning San Francisco-based architects, contend that computer-driven advances in their respective fields behoove architects and engineers to overlap skill sets. They offer as proof an international sampling of 25 recent projects by top firms such as Foster + Partners and Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, analyzed here in stunning photos, plans, and technical drawings. The selected projects, ranging from a graceful pedestrian bridge to a mammoth sports arena, are all exemplars of close architect/engineer collaboration, and they are as astounding for their technical wizardry as for their aesthetic merit. Rather than offer broad overviews, the authors more often than not zero in on one feature—e.g., an upscale boutique's surreal, gravity-defying grand staircase—for a detailed look at materials, processes, and design evolution. This volume, along with the series's first volume by these authors, *Details in Contemporary Architecture*, is highly recommended for practicing architects, engineers, and students in these fields.—David Soltész, Cuyahoga Cty. P.L., Parma, OH

Gonzalez, Rita & others. Phantom Sightings: Art After the Chicano Movement. Univ. of California. 2008. 240p. illus. index. ISBN 978-0-520-25563-0. \$39.95. FINE ARTS

This catalog accompanies an eponymous exhibition that opened at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and will travel to Mexico City, New York City, and Houston over the next two years. As the exhibition's curators—Gonzalez and Howard N. Fox, both with the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and Chon A. Noriega (director, Chicano Studies Research Ctr., Univ. of California)—explain in the introduction, this is a compilation of work by "Mexican American artists who have come to artistic maturity in the 1990s and beyond." The first section includes more than 200 color images of works by 25 individual artists as well as academic essays by the three curators addressing such subjects as the term Chicano, the scope and meaning of Chicano art, art in public spaces, art found in the urban landscape, and the invisible Chicano culture in mainstream America. The second section devotes to each artist a work statement, three to four images, and biographical information.

Recommended for public and academic libraries with art and/or Chicano studies collections.—Valerie Nye, Coll. of Santa Fe, NM

Messenger, Annette. Annette Messenger: The Messengers. Prestel. 2008. 608p. illus. filmog. bibliog. ISBN 978-3-7913-3922-1.

\$85. FINE ARTS

With this beautiful book, published in conjunction with a recent exhibition at the Centre Pompidou, Paris, French artist Messenger gives herself and her art the attention both so richly deserve. She documents her work from the 1970s to the present, using 550 color illustrations, 22 essays, and her own words to show the spectrum of her oeuvre. Messenger creates art in a wide range of media, including sculpture, installations, photography, notebooks, and video. In the tradition of Man Ray, Claes Oldenburg, and Joseph Beuys, she assembles and transforms everyday objects to express powerful themes demanding the viewer's involvement. Including a list of exhibitions, this work updates the eponymous catalog of Messenger's 1995–96 U.S. exhibition (Abrams, 1995) and Catherine Grenier's more recent, also eponymous monograph (Flammarion, 2001). The price may be off-putting to some libraries, especially those already owning either or both of the aforementioned titles; however, academic libraries with programs in fine art and/or contemporary art history should definitely purchase it.—Martha Smith, Elmira Coll. Lib., NY

Morioka, Michiyo. An American Artist in Tokyo: Frances Blakemore, 1906–1997. Univ. of Washington. 2008. 200p. illus. bibliog. index. ISBN 978-0-295-98773-6.

\$35. FINE ARTS

Known mostly for her publications devoted to Japanese art (e.g., *Who's Who in Modern Japanese Prints*), Frances Blakemore was a successful American artist living in Tokyo during some of the most tumultuous periods of Japan's modern history. Blakemore began teaching and creating art in Tokyo in 1935, leaving only from 1940 to 1945 and returning again to a devastated postwar Tokyo; she persevered, launching her successful Fran-Nell Gallery in the city in the 1960s. Independent scholar Morioka here writes an engaging biography of the artist/teacher/gallery owner sprinkled with Blakemore's own letters and essays and profusely and beautifully accompanied by images of Blakemore's woodcuts, paintings, and illustrations. This publication accomplishes two important feats: it shines a light on an artist who does not make it into any of the traditional biographical indexes, and, perhaps more important, it opens a window into the art world of pre-

and postwar Japan as seen through the eyes of an expatriate immersed in the culture. Recommended for 20th-century American art collections.—Kraig Binkowski, Yale Ctr. for British Art, New Haven, CT

Olson, Rosanne. This Is Who I Am. Artisan: Workman. 2008. 115p. photogs. ISBN 978-1-57965-363-7. \$25.95. PHOTOG

This book of photographs celebrates the female body in all of its shapes, sizes, and ages (19–95). A collaborative project between Olson—a commercial and fine art photographer with a journalism degree from the University of Oregon—and the 54 women she portrays, it features nudes lovingly documented in proud yet modest classical poses. Olson's sepia-toned photographs are accompanied by excerpts from interviews conducted with each woman as part of the author's Body Image project. Each woman speaks in a distinctive, heartfelt voice to feelings of beauty, self-image, and evolving levels of self-comfort, be she fat or thin, young or elderly, frail or robust. Maya Angelou's poem "Phenomenal Woman" empowers further the women's words. Of interest to larger public libraries.—Nancy B. Turner, Syracuse Univ. Lib., NY

Perry, Gill. Spectacular Flirtations: Viewing the Actress in British Art and Theatre 1768–1820. Yale Univ. 2008. 248p. illus. bibliog. index. ISBN 978-0-300-13544-2.

\$75. FINE ARTS

Perry (art history, Open Univ.) reveals the haunts of Covent Gardens and Drury Lane in 18th-century Georgian London to provide a complex view of women on the stage in a society torn between the notion of uplifting performances and the perception that the theater was a "lower-class carnival." Celebrated actresses such as Sarah Siddons, Mrs. Robinson, and Kitty Fisher were represented by equally celebrated portrait painters including Joshua Reynolds, Thomas Lawrence, and Thomas Gainsborough, and their relationship established a visual connection between the theater and the arts. The society and the stage were reflected in humorous, scathing caricature by noted illustrators of the day, such as James Gilray, whose print *La Belle Assemblée* depicted an overweight actress in competition with members of Parliament. Running throughout the book are the ongoing themes of "flirtation" and "coquette," which are given multifaceted definition in the portrayal of this stratified society. A fascinating angle on this historical period, with a plethora of illustrations, many in color, this book satisfies all scholarly requirements while still being a good read. It is highly recommended for women's

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