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constance

CONSTANCE: REPLICAS + REPLACEMENTS

EDITED BY ERIK KIESEWETTER AND PATRICK STRANGE
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HURRICANE KATRINA DESTROYED MORE THAN ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURES—IT DECIMATED THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SPACES WHICH LOCAL ARTISTS DEPEND ON TO BRING THEIR WORK TO THE PUBLIC. CONCEIVED IN RESPONSE TO THIS CRISIS, **CONSTANCE: REPLICAS AND REPLACEMENTS (DECEMBER 15, 2006; \$20 PAPER)** RE-OPENS THOSE INTERRUPTED CHANNELS, OFFERING LOCAL ARTISTS OF ALL KINDS A FORUM IN WHICH TO SHOWCASE THEIR INDIVIDUAL WORK AND TO COLLECTIVELY OFFER A FRESH INTERPRETATION OF A CITY IN THE MIDST OF IMMENSE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL FLUX.

COLLECTING WORKS OF ILLUSTRATION, GRAPHIC DESIGN, PAINTING, DRAWING, GRAFFITI, PHOTOGRAPHY AND CREATIVE WRITING, **CONSTANCE** PRESENTS THE TALENTS OF NEW ORLEANS ARTISTS AND WRITERS IN A SINGLE 96-PAGE, FULL-COLOR ART AND DESIGN PUBLICATION. MORE THAN SIMPLY AN ANTHOLOGY OR A DESIGN BOOK, **CONSTANCE** GIVES READERS A WIDE-RANGING LOOK AT THE CITY'S ARTISTIC COMMUNITY IN ALL ITS FASCINATING CONTRADICTIONS. THE LIST OF ARTISTS INCLUDES BOTH THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN DISPLACED AND THOSE WHO HAVE MANAGED TO STAY; INCLUDING SUCH NOTABLES AS CHRISTOPHER CHAMBERS, KYLE BRAVO, BRAD BENISCHEK, STEPHEN COLLIER AND MATTHEW KOHNKE, AS WELL AS PREVIOUSLY UNEXPOSED TALENTS RANGING FROM THE TRADITIONAL TO THE EXPERIMENTAL.

ALTHOUGH THE EVENTS THAT HAVE REDEFINED LIFE IN NEW ORLEANS OVER THE PAST YEAR AND A HALF MAKE THIS COLLECTION ESPECIALLY RELEVANT, **CONSTANCE** IS NOT A KATRINA ANTHOLOGY. INSTEAD, IT SEEKS TO CORRECT THE FALSE CONCEPTION OF THE CITY AS A PLACE DEFINED BY ITS HARDSHIPS. CREATED BOTH BEFORE THE STORM AND IN ITS AFTERMATH, THE WORK WE SEE IN THE BOOK IS UNITED ONLY BY ITS DEFIANT ATTITUDE AND JOYFUL CONTEMPLATION OF THE FRAGMENTARY NEW ORLEANS IDENTITY, SUCH AS BRAD BENISCHEK'S *DIVISION 3*, CHRISTOPHER CHAMBERS' *APOCALYPSE NOW*, SAMIA SALEEM'S *I LEFT*, NATALIE SCIORTINO'S *SHOE HORN IN KATRINA LANDSCAPE* AND MITCH PAONE'S *DESIRE*. AS THE BOOK'S CREATIVE DIRECTOR AND EDITOR ERIK KIESEWETTER NOTES, **CONSTANCE** WAS NECESSARY BEFORE THE STORM AND IT IS EVEN MORE NECESSARY NOW.

FROM THE MUNDANE TO THE FANTASTIC, THE IDEAL TO THE PERVERSE, **CONSTANCE** PONDERES WHAT COMES NEXT FOR A PLACE THAT IS STRIVING TO REDEFINE ITS PRESENT AS IT REINVENTS THE PAST. ALL OF THE PROFITS FROM THIS VOLUME WILL GO TOWARDS CURRENT PRINTING COSTS AND THE PRODUCTION OF A SECOND VOLUME—SO THAT LOCAL ARTISTS CAN CONTINUE TO BE SEEN AND HEARD, AND SO THAT READERS ACROSS THE REGION AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY CAN HAVE ACCESS TO AN UNFILTERED GLIMPSE OF NEW ORLEANS. INSIGHTFUL, ENERGETIC, AND ARRESTING, **CONSTANCE** IS REQUIRED READING FOR ANYONE CONCERNED ABOUT THE RECOVERY AND ONGOING SURVIVAL OF AN INCOMPARABLE AMERICAN CITY.

WORDS ABOUT CONSTANCE

"I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT CONSTANCE WILL ONE DAY BE ARCHIVED AS IMPORTANT DOCUMENTATION OF NEW ORLEANS' CREATIVE HISTORY, BUT AT THIS MOMENT IT ACTS AS A LIVING TIME CAPSULE, THE KIND THAT DOESN'T NEED TO BE BURIED TO ENLIGHTEN." – *GAMBIT WEEKLY*

"IN THE SHADOW OF THE NATION'S WORST MAN-MADE AND NATURAL DISASTER, HERE IS THAT SINGULAR BORDERLAND OF THE SOUTH AND THE DREAMSCAPE, THE PLEASURE OF THE MOMENT IN JAZZ DISCORD WITH THE BETRAYALS OF YESTERDAY, THE URBAN ENNUI RIPPED THROUGH WITH SERENDIPITY." – *THE SIMON*

ABOUT THE EDITORS

ERIK KIESEWETTER IS THE OWNER AND CREATIVE DIRECTOR OF *EMERGE* (THE-K-IS-BLACK.COM), A DESIGN COLLECTIVE IN NEW ORLEANS. SINCE 2002, HE HAS ACTED AS A CONSULTANT TO PROFESSIONALS IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY, SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND ART COMMUNITY, GUIDING VARIOUS BRANDING, PRINT AND WEB PROJECTS.

PATRICK STRANGE IS THE ASSOCIATE EDITOR FOR ANTIGRAVITY MAGAZINE. IN 2006, PATRICK COLLABORATED IN THE WRITING OF THE ORIGINAL PLAY *CATCHING HIM IN PIECES* WHICH DEBUTED AT NEW ORLEANS' ASHE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER IN MAY, 2006 AND HAS SINCE BEEN STAGED AT THE CONTEMPORARY ARTS CENTER IN NEW ORLEANS. PATRICK'S WORK HAS ALSO APPEARED IN VARIOUS LOCAL AND NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS, INCLUDING *GAMBIT WEEKLY*, *NOLA.COM* AND *RELIX MAGAZINE*.