

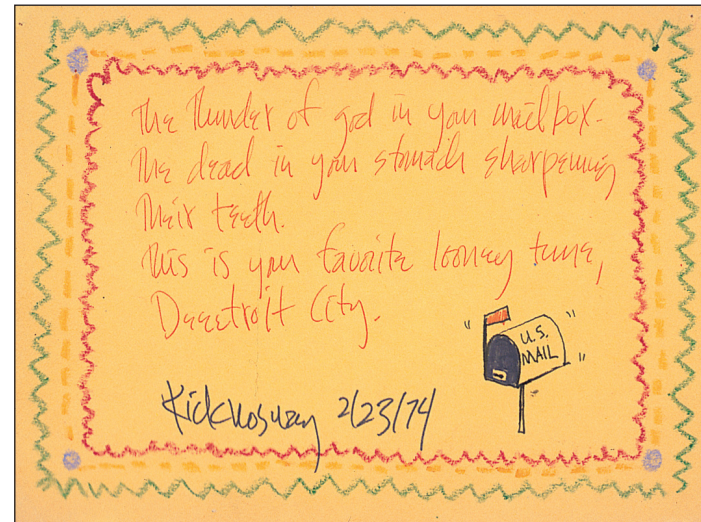
The Alternative Press Symposium

October 17 – 19, 1999

Calendar of Events

All events are free and open to the public. They will be held on the campus of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. For further information, contact the Special Collections Library.

phone 734.764.9377
e-mail special.collections@umich.edu
website www.lib.umich.edu/libhome/SpecColl.lib/spec_coll.html



Poetry Reading

Sunday, October 17
7:30 pm
Rackham Amphitheatre (4th Floor)
915 E. Washington St.

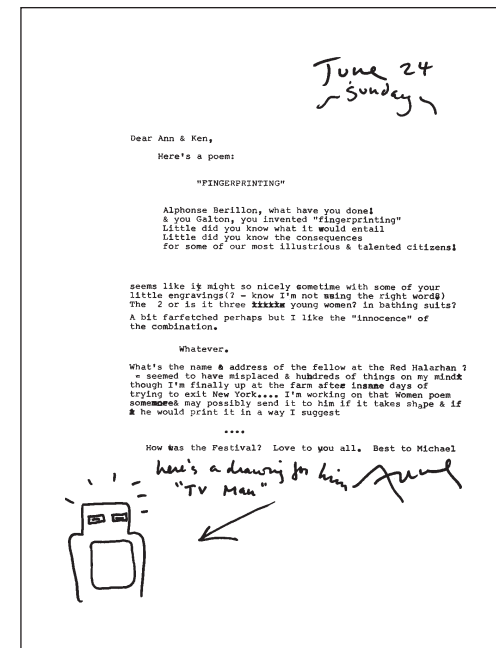
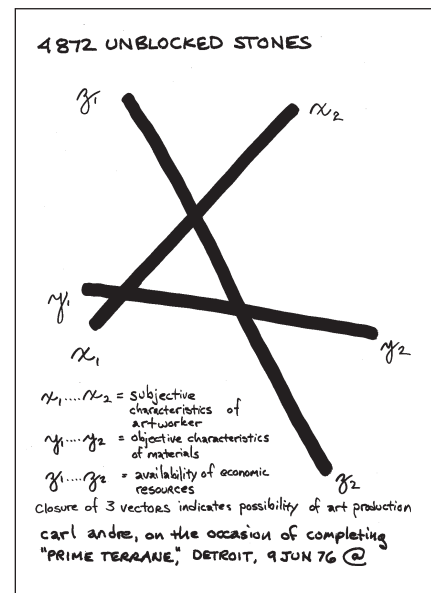
Robert Creeley

Poet, novelist, short story writer, essayist, editor, one of the founders of the Black Mountain poetry movement, and proponent of the poetic philosophy that “form is never more than an extension of content.” He helped to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Press and now continues the tradition by joining us for the 30th.

Edward Sanders

Writer, publisher of the *Woodstock Journal*, founder of the satirical folk rock group the Fugs, author of *1968: A History in Verse*.

Reception to follow



Anne Waldman
Correspondence with
Ken and Ann Mikolowski

Alternative Press/ Art in Detroit Symposium

Monday, October 18
9:00 am
Special Collections Library
7th Floor, Hatcher Graduate Library

9:00 **William A. Gosling**
Director, The University Library
Opening remarks

9:15 **Marsha Miro**
Detroit-based art critic
The Cass Corridor Art Movement

10:30 **Ken Mikolowski**
The History of The Alternative Press

11:30 Lunch Break

1:15 **Artists in Detroit**
Poets and artists will speak on their experiences creating art in Detroit and working with Ken and Ann Mikolowski.

Moderator
Glen Mannisto
Poet and editor of the new journal *Trait*.

Participants
Morgan Blair **Robert Sestok**
Donna Brook **John Sinclair**
Brenda Goodman **Dennis Teichman**
Michael Mikolowski

3:30 **Kathryn Brackett Luchs**
Artist/Filmmaker and Adjunct Lecturer in the UM School of Art & Design, will present her film *Work in Progress: Images from Detroit's Cass Corridor*



Ken and Ann Mikolowski
1996

Poetry Reading

Monday, October 18
7:30 pm
Rackham Amphitheatre (4th Floor)
915 E. Washington

Anne Waldman

Poet, writer, muse, editor of poetry anthologies, co-founder with Allen Ginsberg of the *Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics* at the Naropa Institute in Boulder, Colorado.

Ron Padgett

Poet, novelist, and playwright; known as the “grand old young man of the New York School of poets” (Aram Saroyan, poet and publisher).

Reception to follow

Detroit Poetry Blowout

Tuesday, October 19
7:00 pm
Residential College
East Quad Auditorium
701 E. University

Poets

Morgan Blair
Donna Brook
Lolita Hernandez
Robert Hershon
Glen Mannisto
Christine Monhollen
John Sinclair
Keith Taylor
Dennis Teichman
Mick Vranich

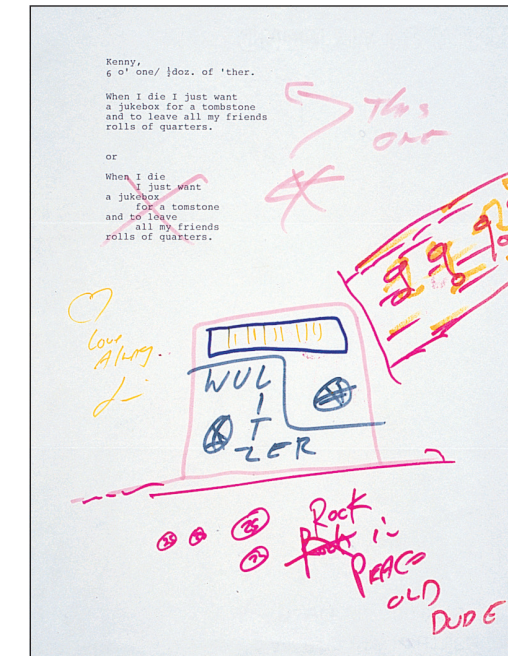
Reception to follow

In memory of
Ann Mikolowski
1940 – 1999

Judith A. Moldenhauer
Design

Kathleen L. Dow and James D. Fox
Text

The Hamblin Company
Printing



Jim Gustafson
Correspondence with
Ken and Ann Mikolowski

Your Artwork Here: 30 Years of The Alternative Press is jointly sponsored by
The University Library
Friends of the University Library
The University of Michigan's
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Office of the Provost
Office of the Vice-President for Research
Rackham School of Graduate Studies
Residential College, and
Shaman Drum Bookshop
With special funding from John and Tom Baird in memory of their father, Reed McCollough Baird.

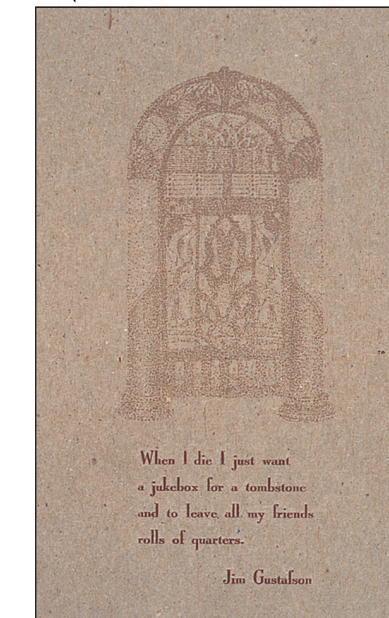
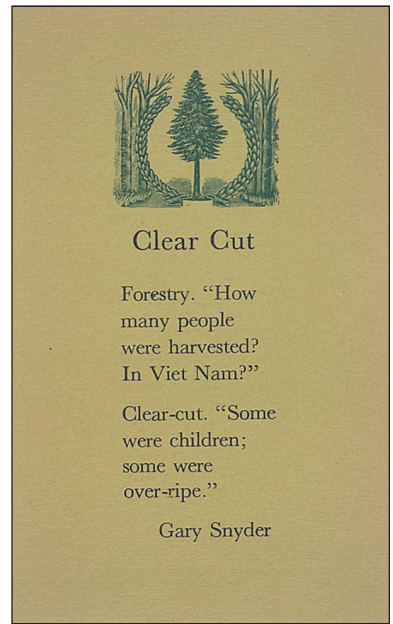
UM Board of Regents
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Lee C. Bollinger (ex officio)

Your Artwork Here

30 Years of The Alternative Press

An exhibition
at the
Special Collections Library
7th Floor, Hatcher Graduate Library
The University of Michigan

September 14 – December 4, 1999



the cat approaches a book of poems by faye kicknosway drawings by brenda goodman handset and printed by ken & ann mikolowski through summer and fall of 1978 in grindstone city at the alternative press.

Your Artwork Here 🐰 30 Years of The Alternative Press

A birthday, an anniversary, a time to celebrate the creative world of Ken and Ann Mikolowski. The poet and the painter have nurtured and published The Alternative Press for 30 years, providing a public forum for the voices and talents of several generations of innovative, experimental, and often under-appreciated poets and artists.

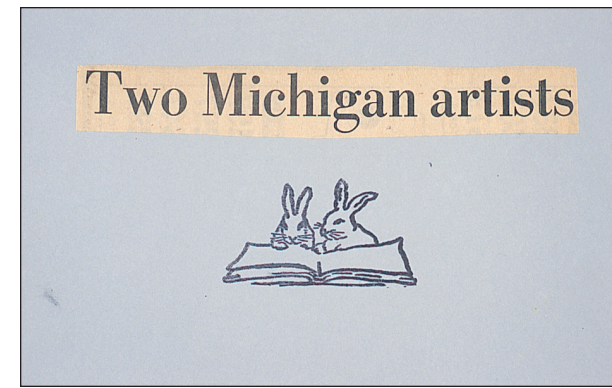
In 1969, in the basement of their Detroit home, Ken and Ann began printing the poetry, witty musings, humorous declamations, outrageous observations, and inventive artwork of friends and colleagues. The works, which were initially free, took the form of bookmarks, bumper stickers, broadsides, and, most notably, postcards. These postcards are extraordinary, consisting of original drawings, paintings, and/or collages that often served to illustrate an accompanying poem. When money became scarce, the couple came up with the revolutionary idea of selling subscriptions for numbered periodic packets of an assortment of Alternative Press items. Thus, in 1971, began the celebrated "mailings," for a bargain price, of this new form of literary and artistic journal.

Through the years the artists and poets making appearances in The Alternative Press mailings have run the gamut from some of the leading poets of the Beat and Black Mountain schools to the gritty voices of Detroit's Cass Corridor artistic community. In addition, the Press has proven a showcase for the considerable talents of Ken and Ann themselves, with the occasional postcard or bookmark carrying the terse, evocative observations of Ken's poetry and the beauty and grace of Ann's drawings. Ken's typesetting and letterpress printing, complementing or playing off the text, and displayed on beautiful textured paper, have always provided the characteristic look of The Alternative Press. Beginning with the dozens of free broadsides and postcards of the late 1960s, through the subsequent eighteen numbered mailings, the Press continues to bring new art to the people.

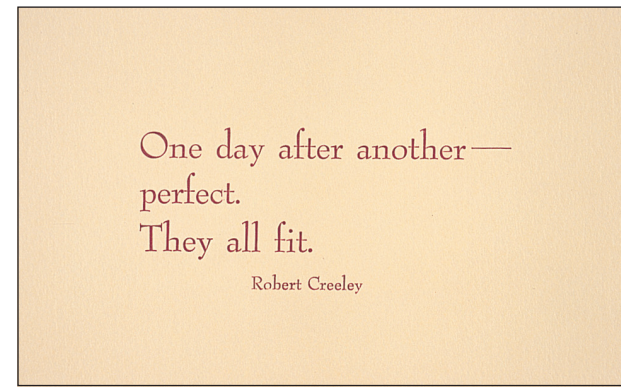
In 1996, the University Library, The University of Michigan, acquired the entire archive of The Alternative Press. Housed in the Special Collections Library, the archive contains such things as letters, notes, and postcards from poets, artists, friends, and supporters, manuscripts of poems, sketches, Christmas cards, announcements, and renewal slips with notes saying "Can't wait for the next packet!" This rich and expansive collection is a unique resource which provides a history of how authors write and artists create — how these works evolve from notes or sketches on a scrap of paper to a printed, finished piece. The Special Collections Library is pleased to have The Alternative Press collection as the cornerstone of its growing archive of contemporary literature and art.

The celebration will feature readings by poets, an exhibit of material from the Press's archive, and seminars on the history and impact of The Alternative Press and Detroit's Cass Corridor artistic community during the 1960s through the present day.

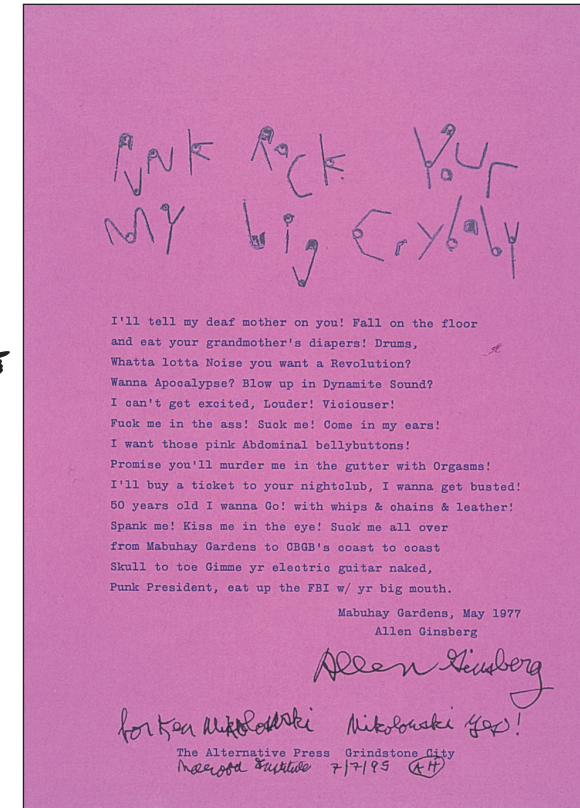
Curators
Kathleen L. Dow and **James D. Fox**
Special Collections Library



By **Rabbita Bunnita**
(Donna Brook)

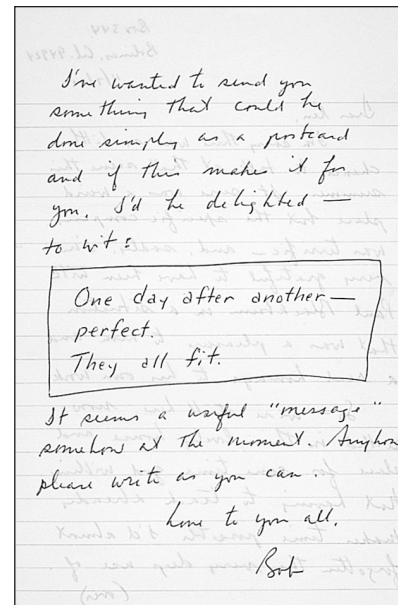


One day after another —
perfect.
They all fit.
Robert Creeley

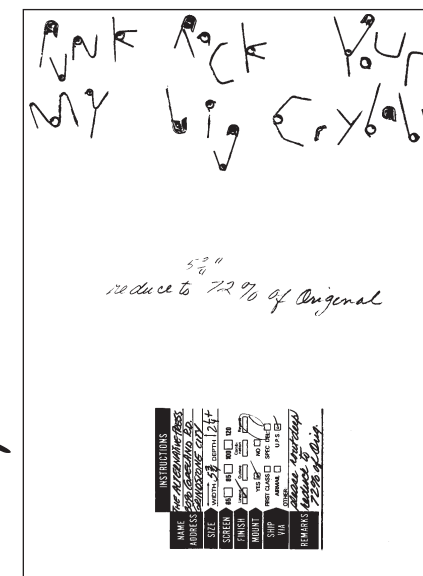


I'll tell my deaf mother on you! Fall on the floor and eat your grandmother's diapers! Drums, Whatta lotta Noise you want a Revolution? Wanna Apocalypse? Blow up in Dynamite Sound? I can't get excited, Louder! Louder! Louder! Fuck me in the ass! Suck me! Come in my ears! I want those pink Abdominal bellybuttons! Promise you'll murder me in the gutter with Orgasms! I'll buy a ticket to your nightclub, I wanna get busted! 50 years old I wanna Go! with whips & chains & leather! Spank me! Kiss me in the eye! Suck me all over from Mabuhay Gardens to CSGB's coast to coast Skull to toe Gimme yr electric guitar naked, Punk President, eat up the FBI w/ yr big mouth.
Mabuhay Gardens, May 1977
Allen Ginsberg

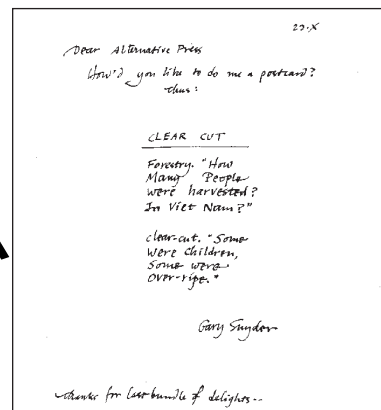
for Ken Mikolowski
Nikolowski (sp!)
The Alternative Press Grindstone City
Mabuhay Gardens 7/7/73 KH



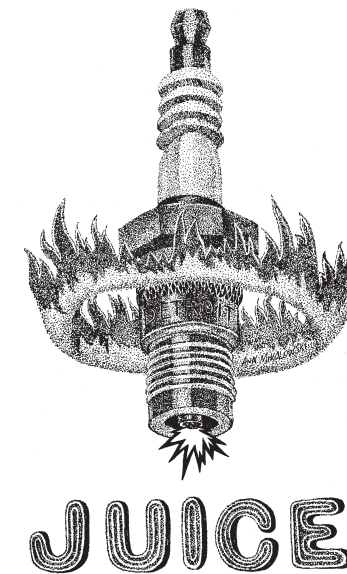
Robert Creeley
Correspondence with Ken and Ann Mikolowski



Ann and Ken Mikolowski
Order for photoengraving

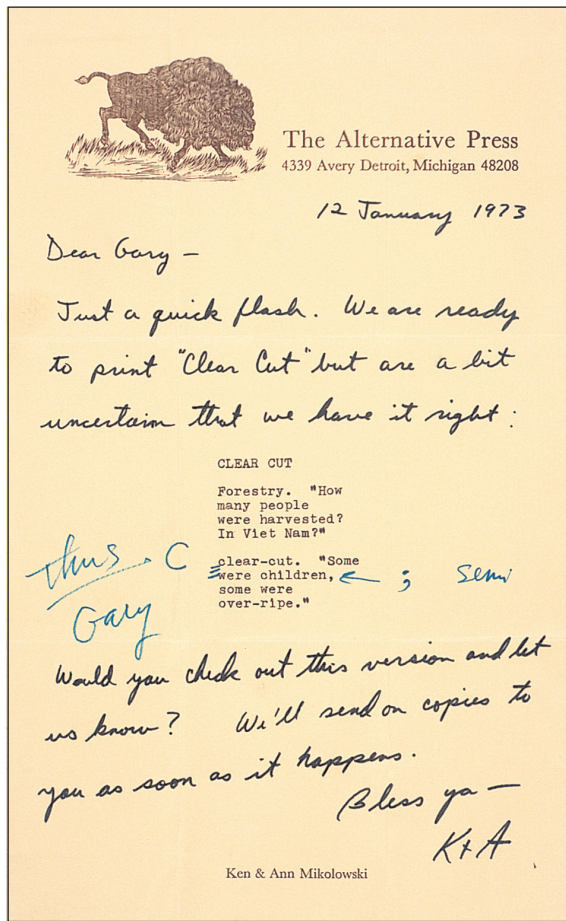
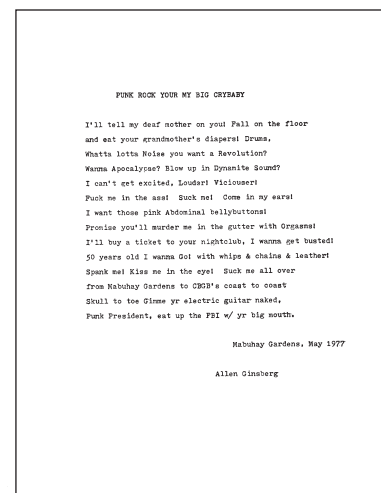


Gary Synder
Correspondence with Ken and Ann Mikolowski



Ann Mikolowski
Cover for Juice

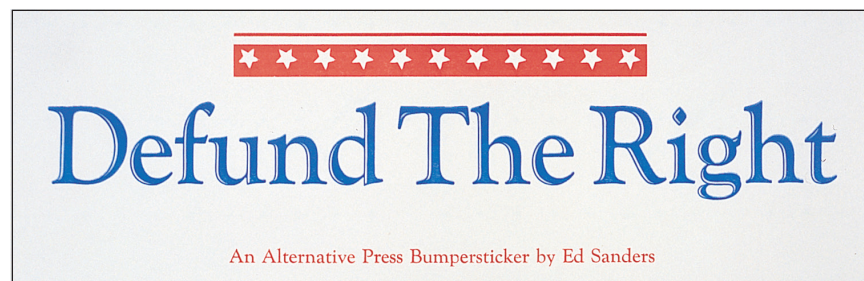
Allen Ginsberg
Original typescript



Ken and Ann Mikolowski
Correspondence with Gary Synder

“... Fine-printed basement press postcards of haiku-brief poems and finegrained heavy paper mirror-sized placards of odd genius big poems occasionally issuing from Mikolowski's hands year after year in Detroit. ... Detroit's Alternative Press products will outlast the auto industry.”

Allen Ginsberg
16 Feb. 1974



An Alternative Press Bumpersticker by Ed Sanders