

2006 Highlights

January. Grants from the Greenwall Foundation and New York State Council on the Arts are renewed by those organizations for The Esopus Foundation's 2006 fiscal year. Condé Nast website *men.style.com* chooses *Esopus 5* as its recommended magazine of the month.

February. *Esopus* begins its alliance with Art Resource Ltd.'s Distribution to Underserved Communities (D.U.C.) program. Issues donated by *Esopus* are distributed to libraries in public and school libraries around the country.

March. The Esopus Foundation launches its redesigned website, which features streaming audio and video, recent news items, and other dynamic content. Influential weblog *designobserver.com* cites Jennifer Tipton's essay on lighting design from *Esopus 5*. Songs by Britta Phillips, The Mountain Goats, and Grasshopper (all from the *Esopus 5* CD) receive prominent airplay on Nic Harcourt's "Morning Becomes Eclectic" show on KCRW-FM.

April. *Esopus 6: Process* is released. The magazine's first themed issue, it's also the largest to date (168 pages), filled with facsimile reproductions of journals, diaries, sketchbooks, and other materials used by 12 artists, writers, filmmakers, and others in their creative process. Four singles from its CD, "Help Wanted," are played by KEXP's influential DJ John Richards, and these and other tracks also receive significant airplay on independent and public-radio stations around the country. German newspaper *Süddeutsche Zeitung* publishes a major article on *Esopus*, "Ein Mann un sein Magazin," which generates hundreds of new subscriptions in Germany and throughout Europe.

May. "Mark Hogancamp: Marwencol," an exhibition curated by *Esopus*, opens at New York City's White Columns on May 5th. The show features 46 photographs and a sculptural installation by *Esopus 5* contributor Mark Hogancamp. Over the course of its 4-week run, the exhibition is seen by over 3,000 people; it also receives an enthusiastic front-page review by *Village Voice* art critic Jerry Saltz, who calls the work "stunning," and praises Hogancamp's "uncanny feel for body language, psychology, and stage direction." On May 11th, *Esopus* is invited to program its first public event at P.S.1/MoMA, which features readings by playwright Stephen Adly Guirgis and poet Suji Kwock Kim, as well as a musical performance by folksinger Ruth Gerson. Finally, on May 17th, *Esopus* holds a formal launch party for the *Process* issue, also at White Columns.

June. *Esopus* editor Tod Lippy is invited with two other magazine editors to appear on a panel organized by the American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA). The event, "Fresh Dialogue 22: Making Magazines," is moderated by publishing fixture James Truman, and takes place at New York's F.I.T. to a audience of over 1,000. (The transcript will appear as a book published by Princeton Architectural Press in early 2007.) *The Village Voice* picks *Esopus 6: Process* as one of its "Best Books of the Summer." *Esopus* is featured in "Uncertain States of America: American Art in the 3rd Millennium," an exhibition at Bard's Center for Curatorial Studies.

July. *Esopus* is included in "Mega-zines at Visionaire Gallery," a survey exhibition that "celebrates the old, the new, and the upcoming" in magazine publishing. The website *artinfo.com* runs a front-page feature article on *Esopus 6*.

August. *Esopus* receives notification from the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts that it has been selected to receive a substantial grant from the organization in 2007 as a part of its Arts Writing Initiative program. In a special *New York Times* "Playlist" column, singer-songwriter Neko Case singles out the "Help Wanted" CD from *Esopus 7*. The magazine is picked up for distribution in Japan by AM Corporation. For the first time, *Esopus*'s subscription base exceeds 2,000 readers.

September. Design magazine *Graphis* selects the front and back covers of *Esopus 5* for inclusion in its prestigious *Graphis Design Annual*. *Esopus* is featured in "Kiosk: Modes of Multiplication," an ongoing exhibition that travels to Vancouver and San Francisco in 2006. The Borders Bookstore chain chooses *Esopus 7* as a "Borders Recommends" selection, which means the issue will be available at every Borders store in the U.S. on a specially designated shelf. Because of this order and increased demand from other distributors, the magazine's print run jumps to 11,000 copies.

October. *Esopus 7* hits newsstands. In addition to an unprecedented four artists' projects, the issue includes the first installment of our series "Modern Artifacts," presented in partnership with the Museum of Modern Art Archives, and featuring never-before-seen treasures from the Museum's extensive holdings. On October 24th, our second NYC event, "An Evening with *Esopus*" takes place at legendary performance space The Kitchen. Drawing a capacity crowd, the program features contributions from actors Jennifer Jason Leigh and Alma Cuervo, playwright Christopher Durang, artist Alex Katz, poet Vincent Katz, critic Amy Taubin, filmmakers Thérèse DePrez and Ellen Kuras, and musicians Charles Bissell and Kevin Whelan. *Esopus* editor Tod Lippy is interviewed on Germany's national radio network, SWR, and the German design magazine *Form* publishes the article "A Magnificent Mag," a 6-page feature article including over 20 color illustrations of back issues of the magazine. *Esopus 6* appears on the cover of *Esquire Japan*, where it is cited as one of the best art magazines in the world.