

ANNA BANANA

**PROOF POSITIVE GERMANY
IS GOING BANANAS**



Anna Banana
Proof Positive Germany is Going Bananas
ChertLüdde @ Salon am Moritzplatz
Oranienstraße 58, 10969 Berlin
November 1 –14, 2020

The exhibition includes original material from the historical performance *Proof Positive Germany is Going Bananas*, along with mail art sent from Anna Banana to Ruth Wolf-Rehfeldt and Robert Rehfeldt (from the Mail Art Archive of Ruth Wolf-Rehfeldt and Robert Rehfeldt) and works from the Mail Art collections of Lutz Wohlrab and Karla Sachse.

Proof Positive Germany is Going Bananas was a parodic research project that toured seven cities in Germany: Stuttgart, Berlin, Hamburg, Uelsen, Minden, Cologne and Mannheim, as well as in Budapest, Hungary, between July and October 1993. In each city, Anna Banana presented an installation of more than a hundred enlarged prints of banana-related newspaper and magazine articles from German sources, sent to her by artist-friends in Germany who were part of her mail art network. At each exhibition opening, she appeared in character as Doktor Anna Freud Banana, holding a clipboard and wearing a lab coat embroidered with the insignia of the 'Specific Research Institute of Canada'. She would introduce herself - in German - to visitors, explaining that she was investigating the new German banana consciousness, and she would make appointments for them to come back and take two tests: *the Roar Shack Banana Peel Test* and the *Personality Inventory for Banana Syndrome*.

The re-enactment of this performance for this exhibition and its adjoining presentation coincide with the 30th anniversary of Germany's reunification, commemorating the anniversary of the coalition of the West's Federal Republic of Germany and the East's German Democratic Republic. In fact, the whole project *Proof Positive Germany is Going Bananas* was originally developed by Anna Banana consequent to the fall of the Berlin wall, during which a trend emerged of West Germans greeting the newly-opened East by offering bananas, a fruit prior to unification rarely available in the GDR. The artist subsequently began to receive an immense quantity of banana related articles and items from her German contacts, inspiring her theory that Germany was "going bananas", a theory that she intended to prove with her research and performances.

Besides the historical significance of this exhibition in the year of the reunification's 30th anniversary, another component proves contemporaneously involved. The exhibition's exploration of a public psychological state inevitably points to the current COVID crisis that exploded this year as a catalyst to global socio-political uprisings and natural disasters, resulting in a radical change of lifestyle and our ways of thinking and being within our society. This brings to mind the notion of a collective wound, brought on by a sudden and unpredictable change in our daily lives, and the consequences of which are still not clear and yet to be fully seen.

With special thanks to Lutz Wohlrab, Karla Sachse, Ruth Wolf-Rehfeldt and the Mail Art Archive of Ruth Wolf-Rehfeldt and Robert Rehfeldt, Charlotte MacAskill, Julia Heunemann and the team of Salon am Moritzplatz.

Part of the exhibition will also be dedicated to books from the Mail Art Archive of Ruth Wolf-Rehfeldt and Robert Rehfeldt in which Anna Banana's work or contributions are included.

The monographic catalogues: '45 Years of Fooling Around With A. Banana' and 'The Art of Anna Banana Unpeeled' will be available to purchase at the show.

Anna Banana explores the historical and contemporary implications of mail art and highlights a unique approach to humour, disguise, and the democratic potential of print media and critique. Born in 1940 as Anne Lee Long in Victoria (British Columbia), Banana is a Canadian artist known for her performance art, writing, and work as a small press publisher. She has been described as an entrepreneur and critic, and pioneered the artistamp, a postage-stamp-sized medium. She has been prominent in the mail art movement since the early 1970s, acting as a bridge between the movement's early history and its second generation. As a publisher, Banana launched *Vile* magazine and the *Banana Rag* newsletter; the latter became *Artistamp News* in 1996. Banana lives in British Columbia and operates *Banana Productions*, calling herself the *Top Banana*.

DIGITAL CONTENT / DOWNLOAD RESOURCES

The exhibition is accompanied by a digital library collection, intended as a source to shed light on the prolific publishing and correspondence activity of Anna Banana, and to further establish her position as a significant figure of the Mail Art correspondence network.

Access digital content related to past presentations of *Proof Positive Germany is Going Bananas* here:

[1993 GERMAN BANANA CONSCIOUSNESS REPORT](#)

[Proof Positive Germany is Going Bananas from Anna Banana Archive](#)
[Banana related articles and items from her German contacts, collection 1](#)
[Banana related articles and items from her German contacts, collection 2](#)

[BANANA RAG No.12, 1976](#)

[BANANA RAG No.14, JUN '79](#)

[BANANA RAG No.16, Spring '81](#)

[BANANA RAG No.17, Spring '83](#)

[BANANA RAG No.19 JAN '87](#)

[BANANA RAG No.22 MAR '88](#)

[BANANA RAG No.23 AUG '88](#)

[BANANA RAG No.24 DEC '88](#)

[BANANA RAG No.27 FEB '90](#)

[BANANA RAG No.28, JUNE '90](#)

[BANANA RAG No.31 JUNE '03](#)

[BANANA RAG NO.36, SEP '07](#)

[BANANA RAG NO.38, SEP '08](#)

[BANANA RAG NO.41, SEP '11](#)

[BANANA RAG NO.42, SEP '12](#)

[BANANA RAG NO.43, SEP '13](#)

[BANANA RAG NO.44, SEP '14](#)

[BANANA RAG NO.45, DEC '15](#)

[BANANA RAG No.46 DEC '16](#)

[ARTISTAMP NEWS VOL.3 No. 1&2 Feb'93](#)

[ARTISTAMP NEWS VOL.4, NO.2 OCT '94](#)

[ARTISTAMP NEWS VOL.5, NO 1 JUN '95](#)

[BUT, IS IT ART? MAY/JUNE 2011](#)

[BETTER LATE THAN NEVER, RAGOUT, JUNE 2020](#)

[AB UPDATE #1 Jan'18](#)

[Eternal Network: A Mail Art Anthology, University of Calgary Press, 1995](#)

In November 2017, the artists Anna Banana, Michael Morris, and Vincent Trasov convened together at Or Gallery, Vancouver, for the *Mr. Peanut Summit*, moderated by Zanna Gilbert and hosted by Jeff Khonsary.

[Zanna Gilbert, Mr. Peanut Summit: Supplement n.5, published by Fillip, Canada](#)



Anna Banana
Mail Art booklet, 1976
Sometimes Yearly
Number 12 - *Banana Rag*

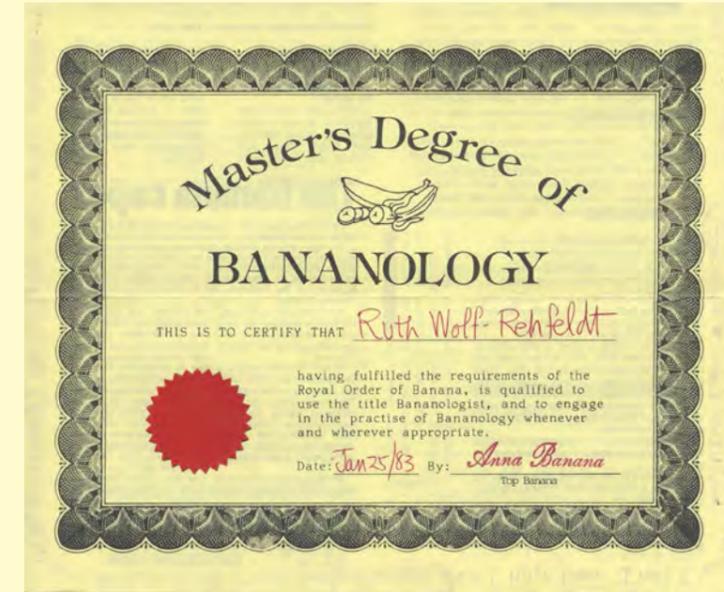


PARTICIPATE IN ANNA BANANA'S RESEARCH

Proof Positive Germany is Going Bananas, 2020

Download the following Specific Research Institute's forms, fill them in and send back to us, either via post at the gallery address or via email at: info@chertluedde.com

We will then send you your Bananology Certificate signed!



Anna Banana
Mail Art to Ruth Wolf-Rehfeldt, 1983
photocopy with handwriting and stamps

Specific Research Institute, Canada, *Proof Positive Germany is Going Bananas Form n.1*

[DOWNLOAD HERE](#)

Specific Research Institute, Canada, *Proof Positive Germany is Going Bananas Form n.2*

[DOWNLOAD HERE](#)

[DOWNLOAD HERE](#)

DATE FORM COMPLETED		SPECIFIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE, CANADA		THE ROAR SHACK BANANA PEEL TEST	
3747 Hwy. 101, Roberts Creek, BC, Canada V0N 2W2		www.annabanastamps.com		a_banana@uniserve.com	
Draw what you see in the Banana Peels		Describe what you see in the Banana Peels			



Foto: Michael Bohme



Anna Banana
BANANEN, Bound/Press Coverage
From the archive of Anna Banana

Bananen



Installation view of Anna Banana, *Proof Positive Germany is Going Bananas*, ChertLüdde at Salon am Moritzplatz, an exhibition organized in collaboration with the Mail Art Archive of Ruth Wolf-Rehfeldt and Robert Rehfeldt, Berlin, 2020





The Roar Shack Banana Peel Test, 1993
Photographs
Each: 120 × 80 cm



Visitors completing the survey and upon completion, receiving a 'Master's Degree of Bananology'.





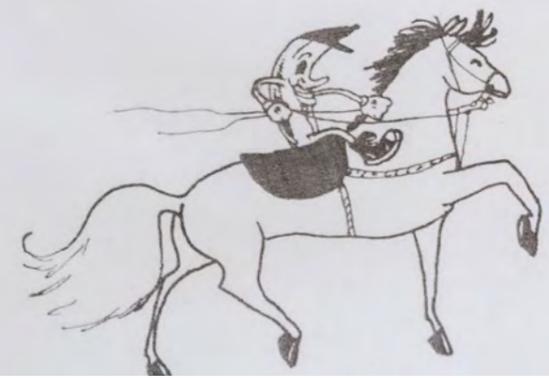
Crates of Bananas



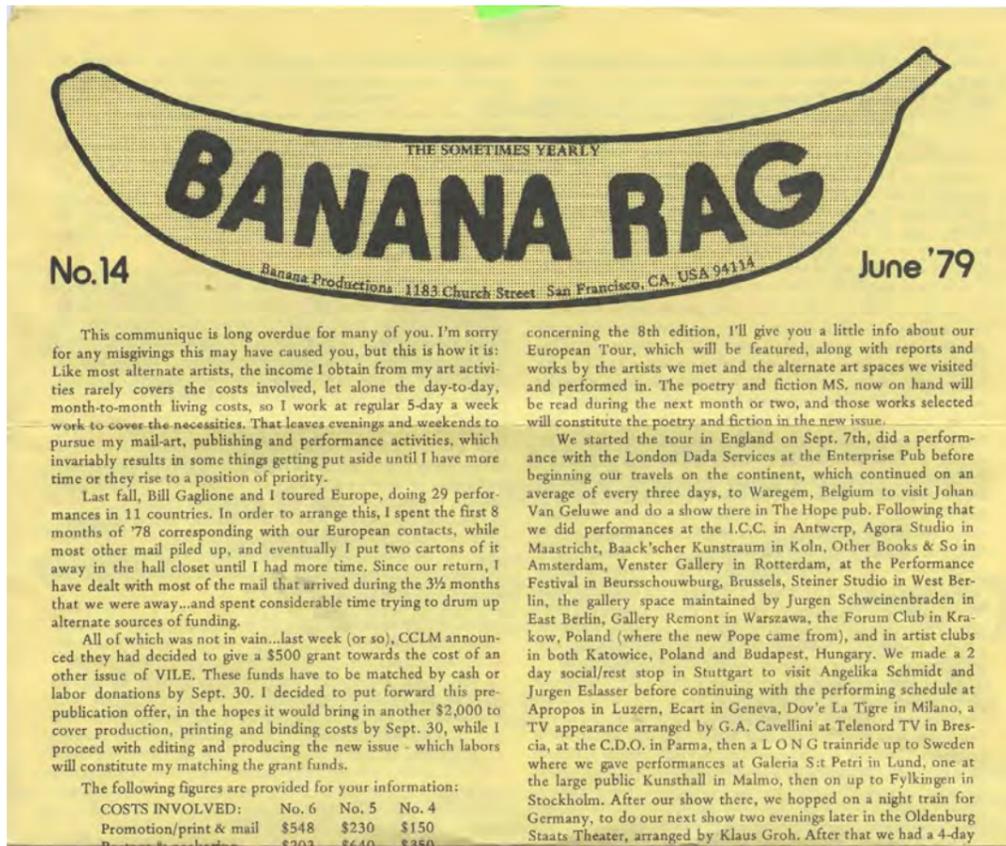
SUNDAY June 12 MONDAY June 13 TUESDAY June 14 WEDNESDAY
event at Karl Schwaner School
Bookings: +49 30 2641 1041 Berlin
chris@anna-banana.de
+49 30 2641 1041
Visit Eberhart Jurek?



Proof Positive Germany is
Going Bananas
from Anna Banana Archive



use pub



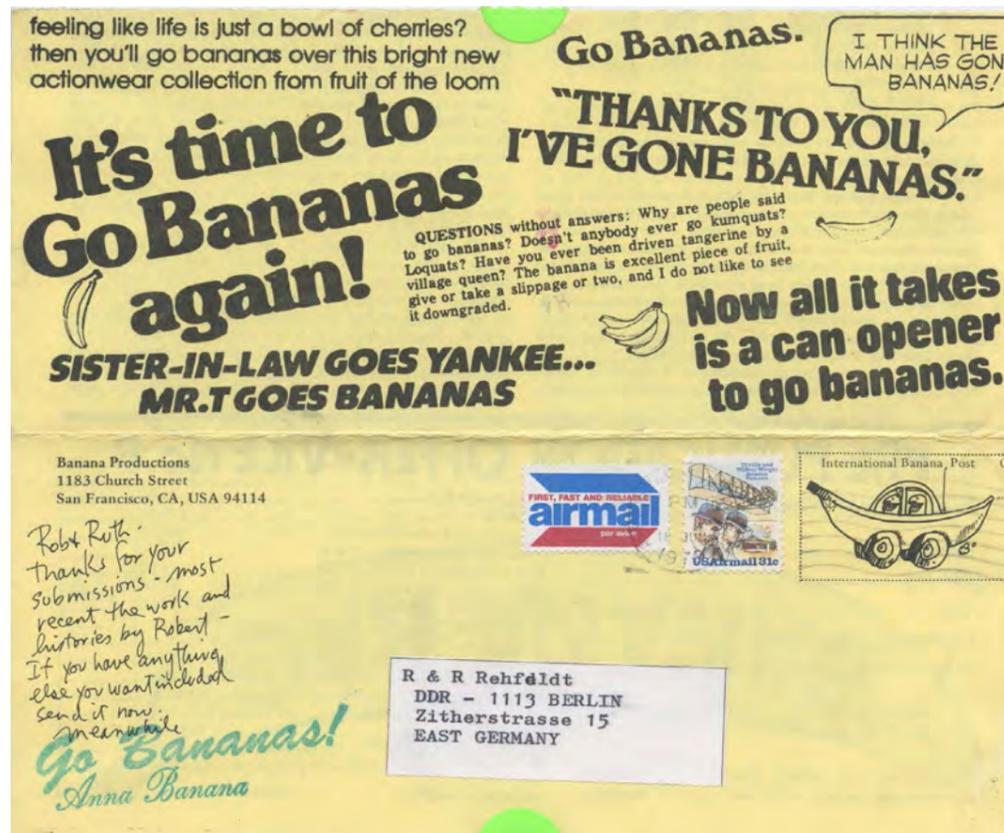
Anna Banana
Mail Art, 1976
photocopies with stamps



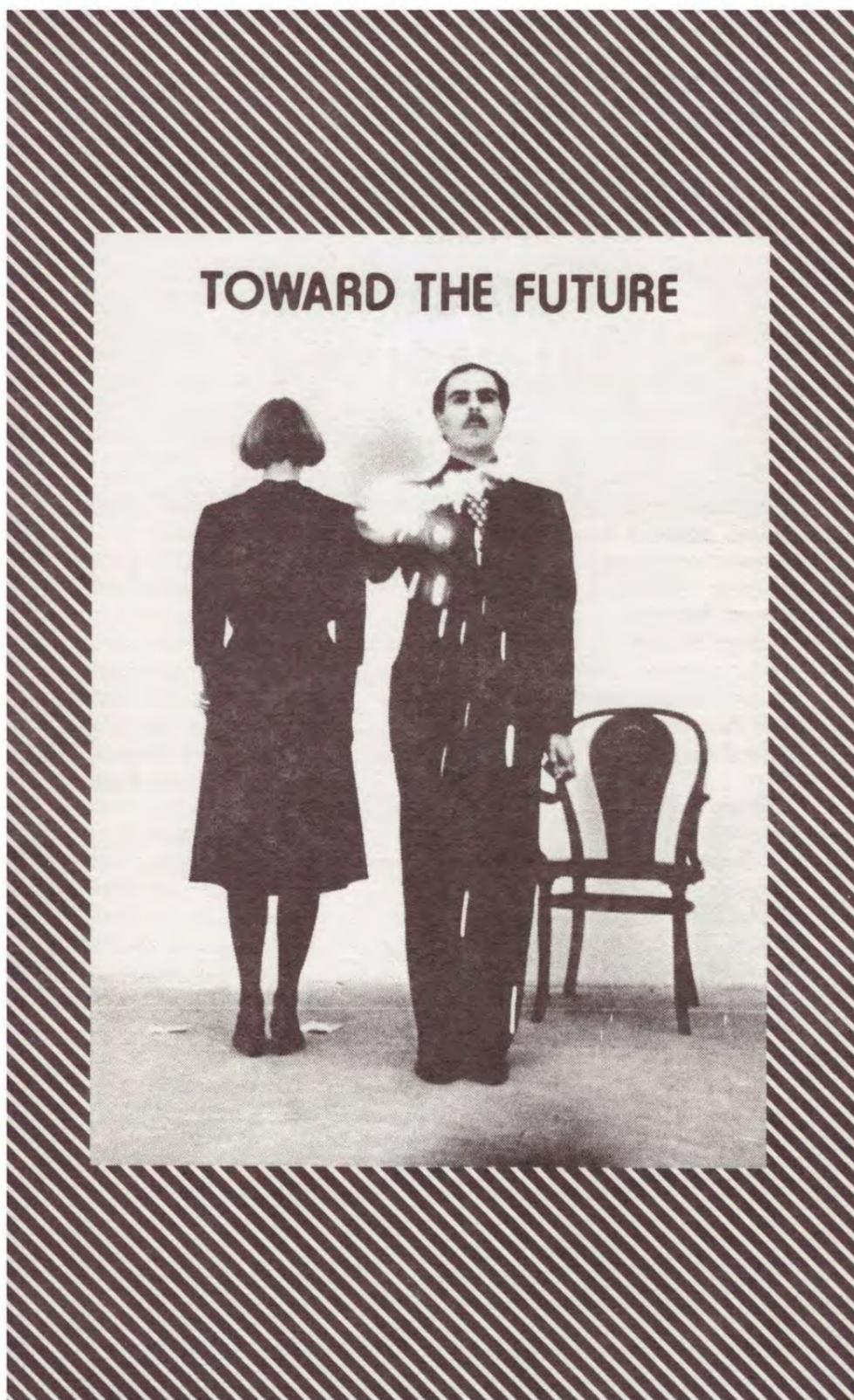
Anna Banana
Mail Art to Ruth
Wolf-Rehfeldt and
Robert Rehfeldt, 1979

Printed issue no. 14 of
Banana Rag of June 1979,
referencing VILE
magazine no. 8 with
handwriting, sticker and
stamps as envelope

folded: 9.2 × 21.7 cm
unfolded: 35.7 × 21.7 cm



Anna Banana
 Mail Art to Ruth Wolf-Rehfeldt, 1980
 envelope, postcards



TOWARD THE FUTURE



CANADIAN TOUR 1980

- Oct. 10, OPEN SPACE, 510 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C., V8V 1E6, phone (604)383-8833.
- Oct. 15, EMILY CARR SCHOOL OF ART, 1399 Johnston, Granville Island, Vancouver, B.C., phone (604)687-2345.
- Oct. 20, ALBERTA COLLEGE OF ART, 1301 16th Ave., NW, Calgary, Alta. T2M 0L4, phone (403)284-8651. NOT confirmed 8/19/80.
- Oct. 23, NORMAN MCKENZIE ART GALLERY, University of Regina, Regina, Sask., S4S 0A2, phone (306)584-4850.
- Oct. 30, ARTHUR STREET GALLERY, 54 Arthur Street, Winnipeg, Man., R3B 1G7, phone (204)942-1043.
- Nov. 6, MUSIC GALLERY, 30 St. Patrick St., Toronto, Ont., K9H 2L2, phone (416)598-2400.
- Nov. 10, ARTSPACE, 190 Hunter Street, Peterborough, Ont., K9H 2L2, phone (705)745-0976.
- Nov. 13, FOREST CITY GALLERY, 213 King Street, London, Ont., N6A 1C9, phone (519)434-5875.
- Nov. 18, KINGSTON ART ASSOCIATION, 21A Queen Street, Kingston, Ont., K7K 1A1, phone (613)548-4883.
- Nov. 20, UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA/SAW GALLERY, 55 Byward Market, Ottawa, Ont., K1N 9C3, phone (613)236-6181.
- Nov. 29, VEHICULE, 307 ouest rue Ste. Catherine, Montreal, PQ, H2X 1Z7, phone (514)844-9623.
- Dec. 5, GREAT GEORGE STREET GALLERY, 88 Great George Street, Charlottetown, P.E.I., phone (902)892-8168.
- Dec. 10, EYE LEVEL GALLERY, 1672 Barrington, Halifax, N.S. B3J 2A2, phone (902)425-6412.

TOWARD THE FUTURE

A program of Futurist theatre works

performed by

**ANNA BANANA
 BILL GAGLIONE**

PROGRAM

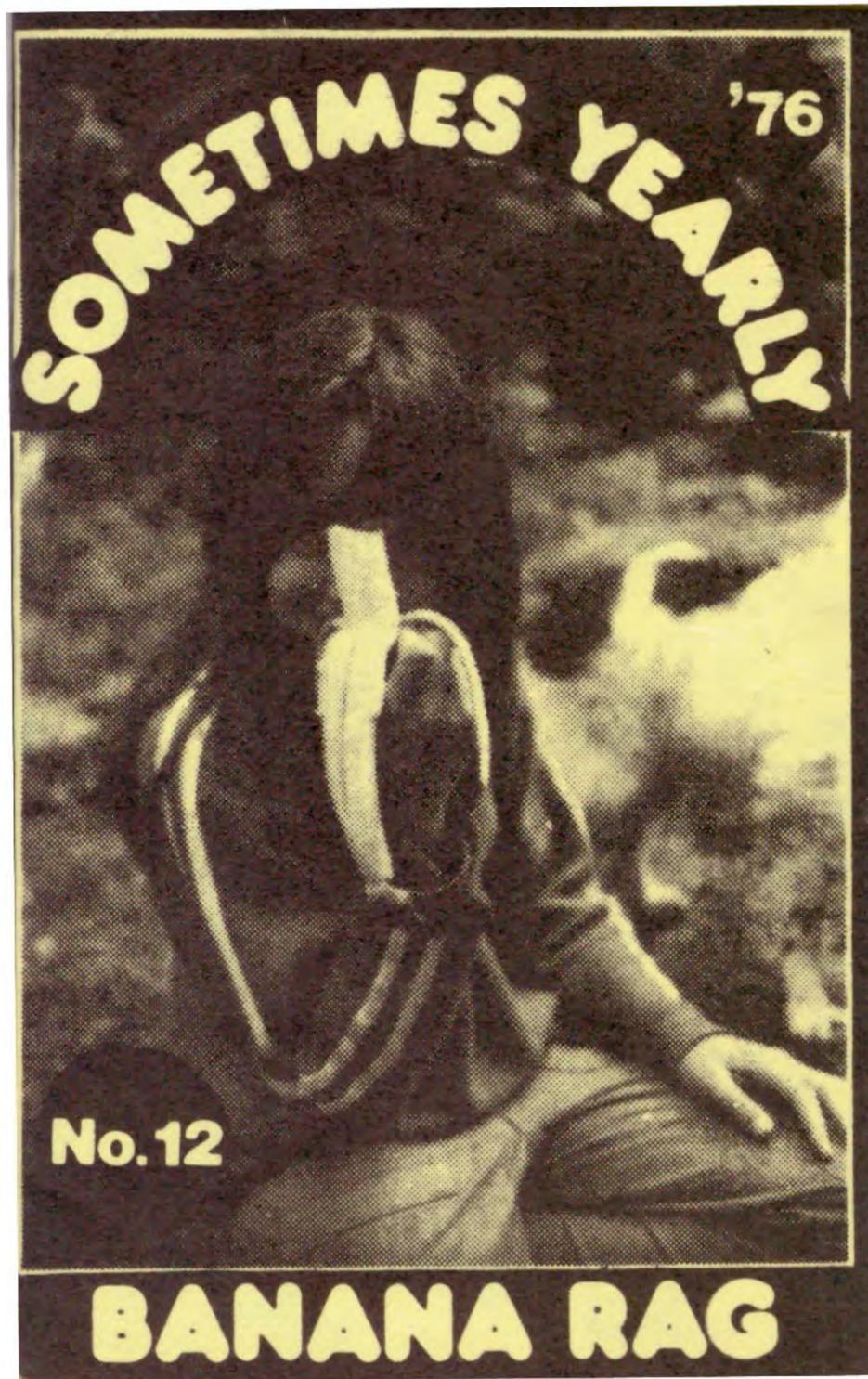
Negative Act by Bruno Corra and Emilio Settimelli
 Sound, adapted from 'Lights' by Francesco Cangiullo
 Detonation by Francesco Cangiullo
 Waiting by Mario Dessy
 Vowel Refrains by Francesco Cangiullo
 Toward Victory by Bruno Corra & Emilio Settimelli
 To Understand Weeping by Giacomo Balla
 Bachelor Apartment by Umberto Boccioni
 The Paunch of the Vase by Francesco Cangiullo
 Education by Angelo Rognoni
 Flirt by Fani Ciotti
 Vagrant Madmen by Remo Chiti and Emilio Settimelli
 Parallelapiped by Paulo Buzzi
 Disconcerted States of Mind by Giacomo Balla
 There is No Dog by Francesco Cangiullo
 Alternation of Character by Arnaldo Corradini and Bruno Corra
 Colors by Fortunato Depero
 Silences Speak Among Themselves by F.T. Marinetti
 Faced with the Infinite by Bruno Corra and Emilio Settimelli
 States of Mind by Mario Carli

These works were written by the Italian Futurists between 1910 & 1925
 Scripts translated by Victoria Nes Kirby in
 Futurist Performance by Michael Kirby, E.P. Dutton & Co., 1971

Temporary Address Through Dec. 1/80
 Anna Banana & Bill Gaglione/Dadland
 % Rose Gaglione, 101-35 - 97th Street
 Queens Park, Queens, New York, N.Y. 11416

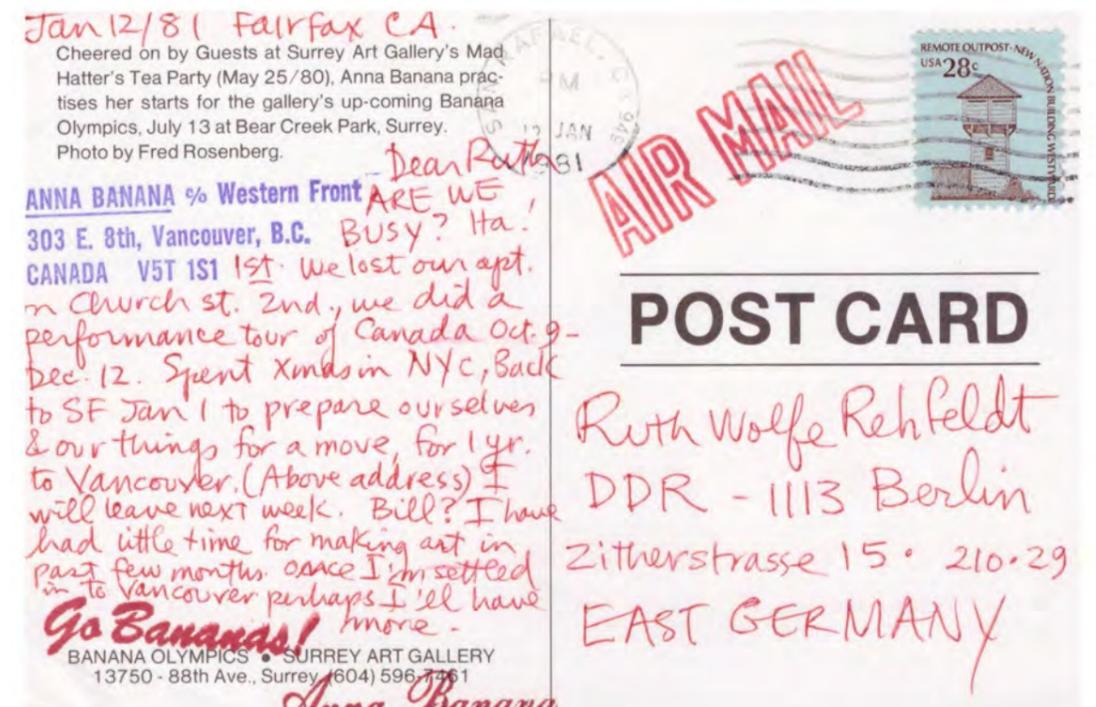
Cover Photo: Giuseppe Buccafusca, Milano

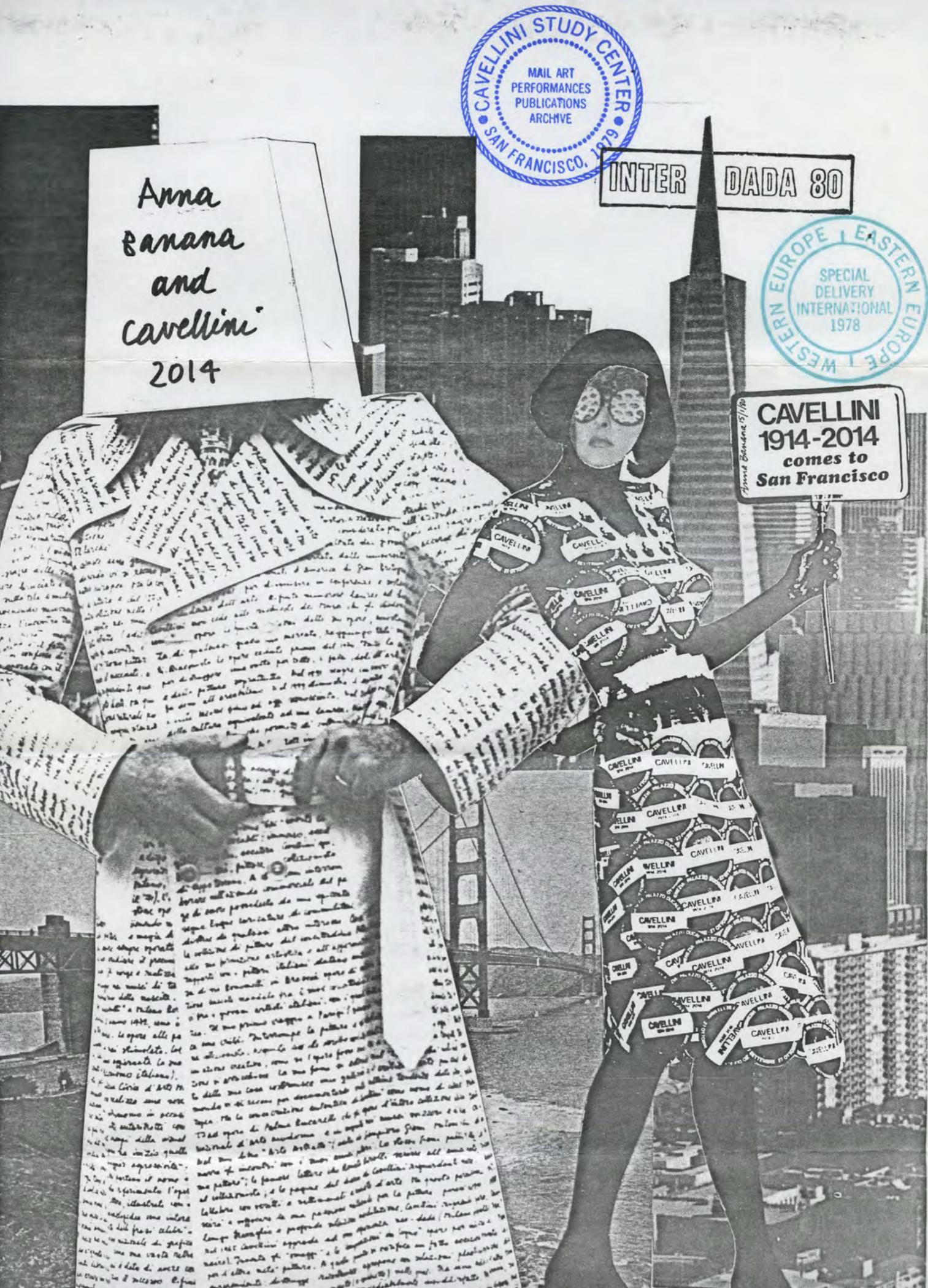
with funds (\$) from Canada Council



Anna Banana
 Mail Art booklet, 1976
 Sometimes Yearly Number 12 - Banana Rag

Anna Banana
 Mail Art to Ruth Wolf-Rehfeldt, 1981
 Postcard with handwriting





right:
Anna Banana
Mail Art photocopies with stamps, 1976

left:
Anna Banana
Mail Art to Ruth Wolf-Rehfeldt and Robert Rehfeldt, 1980
Envelope, handwritten letter, photocopies with stamps

