

THE SACKNER ARCHIVE OF CONCRETE AND VISUAL POETRY

Ruth and Marvin Sackner founded the Archive in Miami Beach, Florida in 1979. Its initial mission was to establish a collection of books, critical texts, periodicals, ephemera, prints, drawings, collages, paintings, sculptures, objects, manuscripts, and correspondence dealing with precedent and contemporary, internationally produced, concrete and visual poetry. The antecedent material had at its starting point, Stephane Mallarme's poem, "Un Coup de Des" (Cosmopolis, 1897). The historic examples included works with concrete/visual poetic sensibilities from such twentieth century art movements as Italian Futurism, Russian and Eastern European Avant Garde, Dada, Surrealism, Bauhaus, De Stijl, Ultra, Tabu-Dada, Lettrisme, and Ultra-Lettrisme. The Sackners collected contemporary concrete and visual poetry but expanded the scope of the Archive to include unique or small edition artist's books that integrated text and image or consisted of experimental typography. They added examples of typewriter art and poetry, experimental calligraphy, correspondence art, stamp art, sound poetry, performance poetry, micrography, assembling periodicals, 'zines,' and graphic design. The Sackners collected manuscripts, sketchbooks and letters written by poets and artists. The Archive evolved into a word/image poetic and artistic resource rather than a restricted collection of concrete and visual poetry. The Archive currently collects several hundred artists/poets from all over the world in depth. The holdings of the Archive amount to over 65,000 items.