

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

OF

LAWRENCE "TURK" LE CLAIR

Feb. 5, 1936 - I am born on Manhattan Island in N.Y.C. Aquarius, Leo rising and moon in Cancer. my grandfather is French Canadian and my grandmother is Irish, on my father's side. my grandfather is English and my grandmother is German, on my mother's side.

We live in Brooklyn. Poor and Pre-Freudian. My Irish grandmother raises me. She is a very warm Catholic woman.

Well established as the artist in my class in kindergarden. All my schooling In public school system. I have a B+ average up until the 5th grade.

I drop out when I see the movie "Huck Finn." Play hockey alot, start going out at night, start fishing the lake, stop wearing shoes. My only passing grades until high school are i art. science and woodworking? I join the microscope Club at the Children's Museum in Brooklyn. Go to the zoo and the art museums in Manhattan by subway. Walk the bridges. Build a clubhouse in my yard. my teacher shows my paintings to the upper grade Art teachers. She writes my parents to send me to the Brooklyn museum Art School, Mon to Fri., 3 to 5 P.M. My father forbids me to go.

7th Grade - Because of my apparent lack of interest, truancy and my being in a hyperactive state my school sends me to a special testing session given by the Board of Education. Results of the tests were: I'm a genius with a 164 IQ, consequently they allowed me to graduate with failing grades.

1950 in the Summer I visit Boston. Lexington and Concord, Mass.

Sept. 1950 I enter High School. I've been doing drawing lessons from books and the TV. I want to study art, but instead my father sends me to a Boy's Trade School - the Blackboard Jungle - I try my hand at printing, dental mechanics, electric wiring, machine shop and jewelry. I do well at all of these classes and cut out on the rest. That school year was Hell. I got knifed in the arm. robbed, beaten.

1952 quit High school. Get a job near Times Square. Go to alot of movies. I've been a movie head a long time by new. European films are my favorites.

1953 - 17 yrs. old. Four jobs later. I join the Marine Corps. The Korean war hasn't ended yet.

Boot camp, Parris Is., South Carolina.

Stationed at the Rifle Range in North Carolina. Learn to shoot. In the Fire Dept.

1954 - Stationed at the Boston Navy Yard. Rock & Roll is born, I become a Jitterbug. I get stationed on the

U.S.S. Baltimore CA-68. Sail to Cuba and Haiti. Back to Boston

Sail to Spain France Italy North Africa, England, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and back to England.

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Back to Boston, to Greenland. back to Boston.

1955 - Sail to Baltimore, Cuba, through Panama to Long Beach, Calif.
(I'm getting tattooed along the way.)

To Hawaii. Midway. Japan. (In Tokyo. I hear the Firebird Suite, my first classical music. I start to read day and night: Joyce, Freud. Dostoyevsky, Camus, Sartre, Mailer. Jones.)

To Hong Kong. the Philippines, Formosa, Korea, back to Japan, to Hawaii.

To San Francisco. The ship anchors at Vallejo.

1956 - Painting class nights at Vallejo Jr. College. I start to drop out again.

I get busted in SF for grass. In jail 8 mos. I get an undesirable discharge. I keep reading and write a short story (lost).
Wolfe, Poe, Steinbeck, Hemingway, Mann, The Bros. Karamazov.

1957 - 1 get out of jail. Hitchhike to NY. meet an anthropologist in N. Mex., hang around an Indian digging.

Feb. 1957 - 21 years old. Back home, gone 4 yrs. Father gets me a job. I get a beatnik girlfriend. Her father turns me on to Baudelaire. I keep reading: lunch hour, all night. Dickens. Maugham. Jung. Datchen, Rimbaud.

"La Jazzoo" 1958 - Design and build a Jazz Club near Brooklyn College. Quit my job, I meet a poet-painter named Jerry Baker. I rename him Taragoo. we live and work at the Jazzoo four mos. I make some mobiles and a painting. He is my teacher. The Jazzoo closes.

Taragoo and I become students at the A.R.T. (Actor Repertory Theater) Workshop, 3rd Ave & 33rd St., NYC. (we live with other students cross town in a big loft.) The Director is Wendell Philips, formerly of the Group Theater in Chicago in the 1930's, and the Actors Studio in N.Y.C. in the 1950's.
Classes during the week and performances of plays on weekends.

A.R.T. workshop - Classes in Acting, Body movement, Speech (phonetics).
Shakespeare's Hamlet, Greek Playwrights, Set Design. make-Up. comparative Literature.

"Adding Machine" - I'm Stage manager.

"Winterset" - I'm the sailor. bit part.

One - Act Plays from the playwright class as an actor. One of note is a Street Ballet a la West Side Story. I'm reading Stanislavsky. Wilhelm Reich, Otto Rank. mythology.

"Mice and Men" - We took Steinbeck's last act and worked it out by Michael Chekov's (Anton's nephew) method called symptomatic gesture and performed in symptomatic gesture as an experiment.

"Cradle Song" - I helped design and build the set and played the male lead. Reading a play a day for awhile. the Greeks. Shakespeare. Tennessee Williams, Lorca.

Greenwich Village, move in with Doc Stanley (folksinger and later a reporter for the Underground Dress Syndicate).

Sullivan St. Playhouse. Doc scores an empty theater. All the homeless artists move in. (See Antonia Lamb's book *Remember the Summer* [1973 ed.]; Doc's Ernest and I'm Eli in the Book about "The Pad.") Start smoking Hashish alot.

I meet Danny Propper. Beat Poet. I start reading his long poem "The Fable of the Final Hour" (a call for the death of old age thinking) at the poetry readings at "The Gaslight."

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The Beatniks spontaneously appear in the Village; I become friends with Allen Ginsberg, Jack Micheline. LeRoi Jones. Diane Deprima, William Morris, Shel Silverstein, Arron Cohan, Hugh Romney. Robert Cordier.

"Les Beatniks", a film by Cordier for French Television, Joni Mili, Life magazine photographer. shoots us all in the Pad. But he won't release the film to Cordier. we decide on a poetry reading from city to city "on the road" to Mexico. we have 2 cars and 10 of us. Leave the Village. July 4. 1959.

CAST

Director, Robert Cordier who reads "Howl"

Producer, Eddie Hockman

Cameraman, Laurence B. Fink

Turk (who Robert sees as the leader of the greatest of New York street gangs). I read "The Fable."

Mary Mary (now with the Living Theater in Europe)

Doc Stanley (Master of Ceremonies at the poetry readings)

Mother

Bobby Freeman, who reads his own poetry

Randy Allen

Ambrose Hollingworth, who reads his own poetry

Cleveland - Have a reading at a coffee house.

Chicago - Reading on the South Side, stay at Shel Silverstein's Pad.

He's Playboy Magazine artist at that time.

Crystal Palace, St. Louis, week of readings. /Also read on St. Louis Radio.

Purple Onion: Houston - week of readings. we have our 1st Peyote trip.

CAST

Ojo de Vidro

Tod Gazo. Ojo ties his motorbike on to the top of

Tod's car and they. with Tod's lady and 2 others, join us.

The Border - we wait for Susan Greenburg, NY photographer. to fly down to meet us. we drive on South.

Aquarius Bar, Mexico City - week of readings.

Acapulco - We read at an American Bar. we stay at a big house with a pool for a week. The movie's over. Ojo and Robert go to live in the Brothel, Doc gets a job on an English language newspaper Ojo gives me and Mary Mary his motorbike to ride Two mos. later back to NY with Mary Mary by thumb.

ART Newspaper, Paris - 4 page story with Photo of "Les Beatniks" by Cordier.

Rogue magazine - One of Laurence Fink's photos of me with a story on the Village.

Off-Broadway: East and West Village - work in little theaters and coffee shop with a friend doing lighting.

Tattoo a Beatnik's arm with a shield with a fist holding bolts of lightning and a cock and balls with wings in it and the words "Fight or Fuck."

Mardi Gras Feb. 1960 New Orleans - On the way to Mexico again, alone. In town less than 24 hours. Get busted for nothing. On Mardi Gras Day the Mayor declared amnesty so they fill the Jail with poor tourists. Out after 5 days. Live with artist friends in a house by the Mississippi in the

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French Quarter - During Mardi Gras week meet Kay Johnson, poet/painter. Her painting of Dan Propper done a year earlier is on the wall. Go by thumb to the Purple Onion, then on to Mexico City. Find Doc there. I live at his pad awhile. On to Acapulco. Become friends with an indian

Porto Marquez. I live with him by a lagoon with mangrove trees with orange moss. He has a dugout canoe. There are 5 flocks of Big White Heron living in the tree tops. The indians hunt them with big slingshots. Reading Henry Miller. D.H. Lawrence Kafka.

The Flower Thief," San Francisco - I thumb into town with Mickey Lee and meet Bob Kaufman (Bomkuf) and his wife, Eileen, and son. Parker (named after jazz saxophonist, Charlie Bird Parker). We stay at the pad. Meet

Ron Rice. we become fast friends. He is filming "The Flower Thief," starring

CAST

Taylor Mead, in title role

Bob Kaufman

Turk. I stay with Rice day and night working on film with him

Eileen Kaufman

Phil McKenna

Ella Fitzgerald

Mickey Lee

Plus multitudinous North Beach Beatniks

Beatitudes Magazine, 1960 - A scene From "The Flower Thief" with a large part of the North Beach cast. including myself, is on the cover (1960 or 61).

"The Adventures of Don Peyote" (1961) is being shot in the Village when I thumb into town from S.F.

CAST

Director, Doc Humes

Ojo. in the title role

Taragoo, as the Post

Turk, I design scenery also.

"Village Documentary", a film by Dan Drayson.

Cock and Bull Coffee House, Bleeker St. I meet Ivor. He teaches me Tarot, I Ching, Ouspensky. Gurdjieff.

Jim Kolb, Village Street Painter - I move into East Village Studio with him. He is my master. meet the painter

Bill Hinie. He is also an astrologer, musician and magician.

Taragoo gets a big loft. Fills it with Mobiles. The landlord throws him out in the street with all his stuff. He starts holding an auction. Most of us shooting alot of speed and taking mescaline at this time.

1962 - Get my own studio. Start doing slot of watercolors, black and white Sumi paintings. make mobiles, do a mural on the wall, start learning to pley the soprano recorder, make 2 books (both lost, N.Y.C., Mexico).

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Joan Garrett and I get married. She is an ex-ballet dancer;
"Waiting for Godot" directed by Brian Crowe - I help build a theater
 in a loft. I install the lighting system and help with the
 scenery. I also play the part of Lucky in the play when we open
 our theater "The Loft Players."

Ron Rice shows "The Flower Thief" at the free midnight movie in the
 East Village.

"Senseless" - Two days later, Rice comes to my studio. I'm in bed -
 it's after midnight. He grabs me by the shirt and says.
 "We're going to Mexico to make the sequel to "Breathless."
 see. You're Jean Paul Belmondo, see." The movie is shot on
 the road - N.Y. to Acapulco. when we get to Houston we find
 the Purple Onion chopped up into little pieces, even the
 paintings and the piano.

CAST

Turk
 Joanne
 Jerry Heiserman -L.A.Painter
 Joe Rivers (son of Larry Rivers, N.Y. painter)
 Taylor Mead

When I finish working with Rice. I remain in Acapulco to kick speed.
Hollywood. Go to the Ballet for the 1st time. I see six ballets at
 the Greek Theater in L.A.

San Francisco - Start my Journals as an aid to memory. Am drawing
 and painting. My main interest is the New Age Man.

Read "Dear Theo," Walden. History of Painting.

Laura LeClair, my 1st daughter, is born. Dec. 13. 1962.

Art Institute S.F. 1963 - Painting Class. Teacher is Jack Jefferson.
 He likes my work. Tells me to "work bigger." This is the
 beginning of painting in oils.

Daniel Moore, painter/writer (City Lights books).

Robert Branaman, painter, film maker.

Reb. Barker, poet.

I meet these artists and work with them. I see "Senseless."

Big Sur - Live in a house on Partington Ridge that has Henry Miller's
 watercolors on the walls. (Live in a tent earlier)

Subud - Get "Opened." International Consciousness purification group.
 Bapak is my guru.

New Age Tarot is being received on the Ouija Board by subud artists
 in Carmel. Cards are painted by

John Starr Cooke And Rosalind Sharpe.

Work a a job building a big house on a ridge, of stone
 and adobe.

Outlaw House on Limekiln Ridge built by R. Brenaman. I help him
 build a studio on to it. Lots of colored glass windows.
 The Park people burned him out 2 years later.

NADADA - We go to Acapulco and meet Tim Baum, publisher of NADADA
 magazine. Go to the Bullfights with Tim every Sunday.
 Climb the

Pyramid of the Sun at Teotihuacan.

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Return to California in early 1964. Live in
Mill Valley. Hamilton Camp is my neighbor. I meet the Committee.
 Birth of
Pleasence LeClair my 2nd daughter. Read "Man and his Symbols"
 by Jung. Painting all the time . Paint "Mushroom City."
Sausalito, 1965. Work with Cliff Roberts, Gate 5 artist. Live with ALE.
 In a group show in SF at the
Vorpahl Gallery.
Sculpture class, College of Marin. Do some silkscreening and cut some
 woodblocks.
Ernest Rabkoff Gallery in Los Angeles - Show of my work-
Emporium gives me a job In the Display Dept. I build the sets for
 Toyland and Santa. move to Larkspur. move to a big studio
 in San Rafael. It's the Former clubhouse of the Marin
Hells Angels. I met alot of the Angels.
The birth of my 3rd daughter Olivera LeClair.
1966 - We all go to N.Y. Separate from wife and two daughters.
 Eldest daughter Laura and I go to L.A.
Acid Test - I live at Hugh Romney's house on Lemon Grove St. in
 Hollywood (See: Tom Wolfe's book. The Electric Kool Aid
 Acid Test.") Start doing body painting. Face painting.
 Living at the Lemon Grove house is Romney. Doc Stanley.
 Neal Cassady (see: Jack Kerouac's book, "On The Road"),
 Tiny Tim and most of the Merry Pranksters.
Mural in Day-Glow under the blacklights at the Sunset Strip Acid
 Test: music by "The Grateful Dead." I see the Acid Test
 movies. I know now after so much cross-country travelling
 that the message is done, the word is out. At that time
 Ken Kesey is in Mexico.
Sunset Beach South of L.A. I live at Taragoo studio. I'm given
 free plane tickets. We fly to N.Y. Laura goes to live with
 her mother and sisters.
"Summer of Love" is starting in America.
1st Easter BE-IN Central Park. I start to paint with acrylics.
"The Underground." I paint day-glow murals for a blacklight
 night club below the Cafe Wha? on MacDougal St.
Kentt Featheringill also painting murals there.
Village Voice gives the murals in "The Underground" a good review.
"The Gas Heart" by Tristan Tzara is produced by R. Cordier and
 T. Baum. Two performances on Saturday night at the
 Gallery Dache are filmed by "Visions, Now" Film Co,
 CAST
 Andy Warhol
 Gerald Malanga
 Robert Cordier
 Tim Baum
 Turk
 Plus other N.Y. painters and poets
Gallery Dache - I have a show of drawings.
"The 4 Winds" - A mural by Kentt and myself in a club on 4th St. of
 the same name.

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Two murals in friends apartments.
Provo Painting for Abby Hoffman.
Peace March Flag for Allen Ginsberg. The Diggers open the Free Store
Paul Ortloff, the underground tattoo man, tattoos my chest.
M-G-M - Movie in the Village starring Dean Martin. Do a large
 magic marker drawing in front of the Cafe wha?
Museum of Modern Art, Toronto, Canada, shows my drawings.
 I realize my Journals are more than just notebooks and
 I edit them.
Dementions Gallery, St. Marks Place - I am the manager and have
 a show of my work. Studio in the back. Paint a mural.
Electric Circus - Andy Warhol gets me a mural job downstairs at the
 "Dom."
Paint "Smoking Bananas with Ganash". Frank Zappa's Band and
 the Velvet Underground both play there. Zappa comes to
 rehearsal with
Dali and his wife. They are locked out and no one else shows up.
 They come to see my mural. We all go for coffee.
Music Co. mural in the front office uptown.
Photo of me in the Village Voice at a "Happening" The Avant-Guard
 in Central Park.
Yellow Submarine launched into Hudson River.
Paint a series of self-portraits.
Tiger Moose gives me a job doing dragon drawing For T-Shirts.
The Tombs N.Y.C. Jail - I'm busted for grass again. Paint seven
 pictures in 3 mos. in Arts and Crafts. They are hung in
 the Visitors Room, the Attorney's Room, Warden's office
 and the store for the prisoners.
Mural in contraband crayons in my cell over the door. Read slot.
 1967 - with the U.F.O.. an all woman's rock band in Cambridge. Mass.
"A Clue to the New Direction" - I have a bit part in the movie about
 the U.F.O.
Album Cover for U.F.O. Return to N.Y.
Paint a large Purple school bus turned into a head shop.
F.I.P.E. (First International Psychedelic Exposition) Paint
 entrance mural.
Peacock car painted by Kentt and me for the Director of F.I.P.E.
 Have a show of my work. One Journal is stolen. much body
 painting.
Film Titles for Ronny Hursh's movie of the "4th of July BE-IN."
Horoscope done by Toni Lamb and read to me in great depth. I'm living
 with Toni and her artist sister, Ruth.
Tribal Reading (counter-culture reading) with the tarot cards by Toni
Painting of Reading: Judgment/Knower, magician/Changer, & the 8 of
Pentacles.
"Pipe Dream," a drawing in colored ink is made into a 10,000 copy
 poster by Personality Posters. N.Y.C.
Expo '67 - I do drawing for a Film by R. Cordier about modern
 medical techniques.
"Lawrence in thg Sky with Diamonds" - Underground movie by Gordon
Magician Card Painting with Dali as the magician.

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Organic Food - Change my bio-chemistry. Read Zen macrobiotics by Ohsawa.

Lower East Side - I rent a big loft with 5 rooms on the top floor of an old theatre building. The theatre has been closed for years. On the floor below me live 2 artists and their band with 2 women singers. Vina, a women painter, Luigi, a painter from Naples, Italy, Kentt and Dan Propper and work in my studio. Danny calls it

"God Factory" Paint a mandala 6'x9'

Kozmozlogika! Koo-Koo Klok. College and acrylic. Start making the Book of my head.

Nude Body Painting movie by a cameraman who had worked with Fellini. All us painters painted the band and each other.

"Feathered Sharks" - also filmed the (see photos in the end of the Book of my Head and Journal III)

"Sphinx with 2 Faces" - Painting for night club in East Village.

"The Cave."

Big Brother and the Holding Co. rehearse at my loft while they're in town.

"The Knower", the 3rd painting from the tarot reading of the Tribes is started (11'x7'). My New Age man.

"The Hog Farm", Jan. 1968. I move to L.A. Live in a tepee on the Hog Farm. Hugh Romney runs the Farm. He also has a new name.

Wavy Gravy. I help with the light show and building domes:

Band Bus Mural. "High on the Hog." The Hog Farm people have many painted busses. They all leave for Chicago and the Democratic Convention, then on to Woodstock.

Topanga Canyon - I tattoo the symbol for OM on the back of My left hand. I also tattoo an Ankh, the Egyptian cross. on a woman's ankle.

Venice West - Continue painting "The Knower". I now realize I've been working on this idea for years. I begin to empty my Journals onto the canvas. It is my own cosmological self-portrait. The mystic Symbols I use include:

- New Age Tarot - Knower & Citadel
- I Ching - Hexagrams border the painting
- Hebrew - the Kabala, seal of Solomon
- Hinduism
- Islam
- Hopis
- Subud
- Egyptian Book of the Dead
- Tibetan Book of the Dead
- Elvish - language from the Lord of the Rings
- Mu
- Atlantis
- Alchemy
- Greeks
- Magic alphabets
- Puzzles
- Peyote drawinge
- Visions
- Auras
- Chakras
- Buddhism
- Dali's moon
- Klee's sun
- Dreams

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Jungian archetypes - Anima, Animus
 St. Francis
 LSD flashes
 rainbows
 magic pyramids
 music from "The Messiah"
 Tattoo designs
 Astrology
 Reich's Orgone
 Zen macrobiotics
 Surrealism at the service of the revolution
 Parapsychology, E.S.P., etc.

ZAP! During the creation of this painting. it becomes a great magic Circle giving off a very powerful Healing Ray.
 I find Laura, my daughter, is in L.A. with H. Campo family and pick her up. move north.

Carmel-By-The-Sea - we live many months in a beautiful studio (built by Paul Mays, who muraled the St. Francis Hotel in S.F.) as a guest of his son, Jared Mays. At this point I paint continually on The Knower. Get most of the work on it done here. But, it is still not completed. Serafina becomes my wife

1969 - I have a studio in a seaside near Ft. Ord. we can hear machine guns shooting targets every day. It frightens the women.

Encounter Cafe - Show of Koo-Koo Klok in Carmel Valley.

Haight Ashbury - I finish The Knower after 2 years work. Have a show at Vorpai Gallery, S.F. Dewitt Robbelloff, S.F. collector, buys The Knower for \$2,400.00. I receive \$1,000.00. The Knower goes on file in the

Museum of Modern Art in N.Y.C. 1970 - Dewitt writes a review for FM & FINE ARTS MAGAZINE OF "The Knower" with Photo (see Journals)
 Read "Autobiography of Malcolm X." Receive Divorce from my wife. custody of my oldest girl.

"Kaliflower" Intercommunal newsletter. drawings

"Organic Morning Glory Messenger," drawing

"Good Times" S.F. newspaper drawings & nude photo cover with Serafina (see Serafina's letters in these 3 publications).

Simmon Factor. Chicago Painter, and I share a studio.

Santa Monica - Tattoo the left hand of a guitar player with the symbol for OM and under that, Aquarius.

"Rose LAND" - Underground movie.

"Morning Star" - I live there on and off For the next 2 years or so
 Home base in Haight Ashbury.

"Free School" - I work with Laura's alternative grade school

"Hearthshire."

"Organic Shipyard" 1970 S.F. - Plant a garden, study nutrition, build a steam bath, build a 39'x16' boat shed.

Rainbow Trimaran - I buy sailboat plans from Jim Brown for a 31' Searunner Tri. Start building for the next 3½ years, day and night. Paint

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"Chanting OM in our Geodesic Dome"

"Healthy Hunza Food Conspiracy" - My house start this money saving idea.

"Love Lights," S.F. poetry drawing newspaper by David Moe and Patricia Ross. Cover Photo of Serrafina and me, naked. Also drawing, Laura goes east to live with my brother and his wife.

DeWitt Rubeloff begins making a movie of me. my Journals and The Knower.

"New Glory" - a painting of a flag for the Rainbow Tribes.

Grant Ave, Street Fair, N. Beach. I have a show of paintings.

KQED film "New Glory" at the Street Fair.

Dr. La Mazz - I take the class and I'm a LaMazz coach and midwife at a childbirth at home.

Padma is born. Dr. Witt stands by.

Phoenix, S.F. Newspaper, photo of Koo-Koo Klok.

Mural, 1972. in S.F. home.

Olympic Rain Forest. Washington State - Camp out. 1973.

"GumBall" - movie by Jared Mays shot at Organic Shipyard.

Pacific High School in Los Gatos. Home of the Hog Farm nowadays.

I paint a

Mural of "New Glory", 8'5'x12'. Boat Launching Party at the Shipyard in Nov. Jared and DeWitt film the great move to Dry Dock in Sausalito.

"Red Legs". the people's Navy, Gate 5 and 6. I'm living on my boat.

"Krazy Kat Academy", 1974 - Rent studio space and do a mural of Krazy Kat on the front door. This in Jared Mays' studio. I paint

"The Nile Valley 100,000 Years Ago"

"Boaty Darma"

"Kahoutec & II"

Meet Alix Geluardi, editor of

"185", a human document and anthology of poetry and painting out of N. Beach and Haight Ashbury in the 1960's. Meet Gene Ruggles.

I paint

"Fairfax" . Have a show in the Crocker Bank in Fairfax. Alix and I visit Phoenix, Arizona. We visit the French muralist

Paul Coze. Return to Fairfax. Paint

"The Hopi Spirit". 4'x5'. Make a new

"Book of my Paintings & Murals"

"The Purple Submarine, The True Story of Scarlet the Drag Queen", a short tragedy written by Jack Micheline. I do the cover painting.

"Who Wouldn't Walk with Tigers?", memoirs of the life of Eileen

Kaufman and her life with Bob Kaufman who is known as the American Rimbaud. I do the cover painting. Start a

Book of "Symbols, Paintings & Information - Dreams Visions & Revelations -

Poems, Astrology & Quotations - Memories, Prayers & Translations."

Smithsonian Institute establishes the Lawrence LeClair file.

L"TL"LC/km

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SHOW OF PAINTINGS in Fairfax at the bank. I sell my Trimaran. I fly to N.Y.C. visit my family and fly to London.

ENGLAND I visit Stonehenge for the summer solstice; London, Oxford and do two canvases there. I visit Blarney Castle in Ireland and kiss the stone. I take the ferry train to

HOLLAND I do a mural in Amsterdam at the home of a filmmaker. I take the train to Rome. I have a Eurail pass.

EURAIL PASS I live on the trains and ferry boats all over western Europe and North Africa for the next three months. I visit and view the paintings at the great galleries. I do a mural at

ISLAND GALLERY ROTTERDAM and fly to N.Y.C. after five months touring.

COCKAROACH ART, GREENWICH VILLAGE I do a mural of "New Glory," 16' x 11'. Then I went to Springfield Ohio to the home of Jud Yalkut, filmmaker. He shot film of me doing a large painting, also shot video tape of me talking about Danny's long poem of Kerouac's death, called

BEATNIK HEAVEN I fly to Maui, Hawaii where I established

BIRDLAND STUDIOS I live on Maui five months, painting and showing at

THE DESIGNERS ART GALLERY, HONOLULU Then I get a serious case of jungle rot and left Maui to fly to San Francisco. I do two murals at the

KRAZY KAT AKATEMY in Fairfax. Then I went to live at the Russian River and take a wife.

MORIE ARMSTRONG and her boy Oen Redwing. We join the group

FREE STORE THEATRE COMPANY in Cotati. Then a big show opened in Paris for the Bi-Centennial. I have two paintings in the showing. "The Knower" and "New Glory" are in this

AMERICAN PAINTERS IN PARIS show. The Knower and Danny Propper's poem psalm 13 are on a whole page in

ARTIST/USA 1976 I move to San Francisco in December. I paint a portrait of

REGGIE THE MIME and start a series of paintings of the little monks with purple robes. I update this Autobiographical sketch for the Oakland Museum and

OMAR I'm also getting ready for a slide show of my murals in March at the Oakland Museum.

Taragoo dies.

L"TL"LC/ ma

(Continued on Page 12.)

Mural in a Bus for Berkeley musicians. I join the Mural Workshop at Laney College, Oakland, California. Put slides of my murals in O.M.A.R., the Oakland Museum File of Bay Area Muralists. Ne do a performance in Washington Square Park in North Beach, San Francisco, with the Free Store Theater group. Show slides of my murals at the Muralist Convention, Laney College, Oakland, California. Then I show the Rainbow Flag we made and slides of my paintings on T.V., Cable 8 in San Francisco, on a show called Cats Cradle. Then I fly the Rainbow Flag in the San Francisco Columbus Day Parade with Banana Productions- that's Anna Banana and Daddaland- I put a back on the flag that says, "My Art Belongs to Dada." Do Sound Poem performance at La Mamella Inc. in San Francisco, with the Bay Area Dadaists. Then I make my first 3-D Plywood Painting. BAPAK of SUBUD gives me a new name to use; from now on I'm Abd-Allah Leclair. The Bay Area Dadaists call me Abdada. Wavy Gravy of the Hog Farm flies the "New wave" Rainbow Flag at the Nobody for President Rally at San Francisco Civic Center; and on a cross country tour: New Mexico, Texas, Washington, D.C. (at the Washington Monument, all the flags of the 1776 Revolution were flying and the Hog Farm arrived for a rally and set up "New Wave" right in line with the 1776 flags: it was a windy day and the flags flew nicely.) The tour ended at U.N. Plaza in New York City. New Wave flew in the company of the flags of all the nations of the world. During the tour "New Wave" was in the local newspapers and on T.V. in each city where a Nobody for President Rally was held. The Tale of the Amazing Tramp, a book of poems by Dan Propper is published, containing a poem about my paintings. Show several paintings in the open studio group show with S.O.M.A., the South of Market Association in San Francisco. Anna Banana gets a group performance together at Ocean Beach, San Francisco, I fly the "New Wave" Rainbow Flag at the Banana Burn. Perform with the Bay Area Dadiigts at the Academy of Arts College in San Francisco, doing Sound Poems performance, is taped on video. Show of my paintings at the Upper Grant Avenue Street Fair, North Beach, San Francisco. Do performance with the Bay Area Dadaists (B.A.D.) at La Mamelle, Inc. Make a poster for the Spirit of the People Festival in Golden Gate Park, where I fly the Rainbow Flag. My wife gives birth to Sophia Leclair, my fourth daughter. I paint a 4 ft. x 8 ft. canvas named "The Entry of Christ into Liverpool, in 1966." We move south to San Diego. I rent a big house that used to belong to a Navy Admiral I paint a mural in my old friend Hamilton Camp's Hollywood home. He's an actor. Mural is 4 ft. 6 in. x 5ft. 6 in. In a multimedia group show at the Community Arts Gallery in San Diego. Community Art has an artist parade. I'm asked to lead the parade with the New Wave Rainbow Flag. I paint a 7 ft. 7 in. x 12 ft. 1 in. mural of the Firebird in the Community Arts Gallery. Have been doing Mail Art for a short while now. Have my work published by

Lomholt Formular Press in Denmark. Also published in Cabaret Voltaire #5. Start making Masks and Sculpture. I join a mural team. We paint, a 40ft. x 100ft. Mural on the outside of the Community Arts Building. Mural is named "Long Live Picasso." The eyes of Picasso look angrily into the San Diego Navy Yard. Photos of us working on two T.V. news shows and in three San Diego newspapers and the L.A. Times. The mural makes a big scandal. The Admiral of the Navy Yard complains to the mayor of the city, and the mayor closes Community Arts down. Ballet schools, Gallery, everybody out, lock the building up. The building stands empty all these years--the murals still on the wall. I take a silkscreen class at San Diego Fine Art Academy. I flunk out. I play a part in a performance collage. "Sensory Transitions--Dadas Dream" at SDSU. I paint a mural 45 ft. long of a whale at the India St. Art Colony in San Diego. Show my paintings in a group show at the Penthouse Gallery in La Jolla, California. Then I paint a mural in the Friends Market of five cartoon vegetables. Then the Randell K. Design Co. commissions me to paint a mural in a child's room in a San Diego House, of Merry-Go-Round animals. I have a one-man show in the National City, California Library and get interviewed by the local newspaper with a photo of me and my family. I'm wearing a mask and costume I made. I start using the name Radio Free Dada in the Mail Art Network. we move to Vincennes, Indiana, and live upstairs in my wife's mother's house for the summer and paint sets for three plays at the Old Town Theater in Vincennes. Five months in Indiana and we move back to California to Santa Rosa. I fly the New wave Rainbow Flag in the Cavellini Day Parade with Anna Banana in San Francisco. Rents are so high nowadays. I can't get a big studio to make large canvas, so I'm painting a lot of smaller canvases. Have been sending collages, writings, drawings, photos and color xeroxes to shows and artists projects, all over the world through the Mail Art Network. Also, I've been getting published in lots of Mail Art books and catalogs. "Artist at Play". I show the Rainbow Flag in a group show at the Sonoma County Art Comm. in Santa Rosa. Panjandrum Press, an evening of Sound Poem performances with the Bay Area Dadaists. Mad Toy Event, an artist parade at the Bank of America Plaza in San Francisco; I wear my mask and tux with the piano keys and fly the Flag. I wrote a Preview and Dada Statement about the coming International Dada festival, published in "The Stump", a Sonoma newspaper. ' Interdada 80, Ukiah, California. I fly the Rainbow Flag in the Dada Parade, dance with Anna Banana in the Dada Dance Contest; also do five performances in four days with the Neoists, ROMA, Rockola, Cavellini, etc. Go to L.A. right after Ukiah for

Dadafest L.A. I fly the Flag in the Dada Parade in Venice. Go to the Punk Prom, and do several performances at galleries and artist spaces during this festival. Cavellini publishes a book of the two festivals, called

Cavellini in California. He writes about his meetings with all the artists he met in California and publishes lots of photos of the two festivals. There are several photos of me in the book. Lon Spieqelmar also publishes a book with lots of photos of Ukiah and L.A. Called

California Dada. Do performance with Geoffrey Cook and Ishvahni. my wife's new Subud name, at Garbo's on the Russian River.

"Disposable," a night of performance by Sonoma artists, "Sonowave." at Fort Mason Center in San Francisco. Do performance at the Third Annual Erotic Art Show in Sonoma California. The Adverts, a Sonoma newspaper, published photos of the Erotic Fashion Show performance. In the same issue there is an interview and photos of masks made by Sonoma artists.

"None of the above." I organize 25 Sonowave artists for a night of video performance at the Cabaret in Cotati, California. I did a few performances and designed the poster.

Stamp Art #1. Rubber stamps designed by me in a book published by Dadaland, Bill Gaglione. I get interviewed on the radio by Emery Holmes, broadcasting from Comm. Art Building, Santa Rosa, California.

Ray Gun. I have work in Rockola's Color xerox show at Electro Arts Gallery in San Francisco. I make four masks for the

Absurd Chorus Line. I do a lot of work with the Chorus Line at this time, helping them with costumes, photos, etc.

Color Xerox Calendar by Barbara Cushman. I do the February 1981 page. Shock Troops. I organize a night of video performances with Sonowave and two Berkeley artists at the Savoy Tivoli in North Beach, San Francisco. I do four performances that night, one with the Absurd Chorus Line.

Copy Art Expo, a group show of Color Xerox Art at La Mamelie in San Francisco, and later at the Union Gallery in San Jose, California. I go to Mexico and paint an 8 ft. x 12ft. mural on a small hotel ' on the beach at Mazatlan. Go to Mexico City and met the Mexican mail artists, who publish my work in

Group Marco, their newspaper. Also become friends with the painter Francisco Zenteno Bujaidar. Return to Santa Rosa and do several 3-D plywood paintings.

Artrum, weekend festival by Sonoma Art Council at the Santa Rosa Junior College. I do performance with the Absurd Chorus Line. Simmon Factor, the painter, sends me a photo from Chicago, of a painting he did from photos of me in my Piano Key Tux with the Chorus Line.

Face of Mexico, a painting show in Mexico City. Bujaidar enters a painting I did, when I was down there. Break up with Ishvahni and go to live in San Francisco. I paint 9 ft. x 14 ft. mural on a San Francisco house. I go back down to Mexico to the Yucatan, and tour

The Mayan Pyramids, and do some nice canvas there. Two months in the south in go up to Mexico City for a month and do some more canvas. Then I return to Santa Rosa. I do a performance on

Uncle Mark's Radio Show at Sonoma State. I do the February 1982 page in Barbara Cushman's Color Xerox Calendar. My rubber stamp designs get published in Stamp Art #2. I was interviewed by Leticia Ocharan for a Mexico City newspaper, "El Herald," last March 6th in Mexico. Interview and photo of me gets published in June 1982 in the Sunday Cultural Section. I do a performance at Sonomore Atomics in the park in Cotati, California. Song Magazine publishes an article about my art that I wrote. I go to Chicago and visit the painter Simmon Factor, then on to New York City where I do performance at the Club Armagedoon in Greenwich Village. Cavellini and lots of other Mail Artists perform that night. A few days later we do a street performance in the Soho. Lots of cameras, film and video being shot. we all go to Amhurst, Mass. to Hampshire College where we are on the college T.V. station; I stay on a week after the other mail artists leave and do a performance on Grateful Dead night. I return to New York City and do a performance at Risa's Salon in Brooklyn. Return to Santa Rosa. Omanation of San Francisco commissions me to make them a 6 ft. x 10 ft, Rainbow Flag. Tattoo Rose Cafe in North Beach, San Francisco, is the next place I perform. Then again at Lindy Coffee Shop in Cotati, California. Rubber Stamp design published in Stamp Art #4. In between all these performances, doing Mail Art and working in new media; I've been painting and writing. At this point, Spring 1983, I think it's time to clean up, Straighten out and update all journals, files, archives, etc., etc,

L"TL"LC/

Published 4:00 am, Sunday, November 7, 2004

LeCLAIR, Turk - 1935 - 2004 Born in Manhattan. Painter, photographer, poet, actor, genius, outlaw, madman. Called his art "Cosmic Beatnik Dada." He has split to Beatnik Heaven to wail in the Eternal Jam Session/Poetry Reading. Where the passion goes on for years. Good Luck, Turk.

<http://www.beatsupernovarasa.com/thebeats/thebeats.htm>

Turk was born Lawrence (Larry) LeClair in Brooklyn, New York. He was a figure on the beat scene in New York's Greenwich Village from the mid-1950s. An aspiring artist and actor, he performed in the art film, "The Flower Thief" with Taylor Mead in 1960. Turk was totally free-spirited and his East 9th Street pad was a venue for a number of psycho-sexual experiments, sometimes observed and recorded by university students. He developed his talent as a painter and was active in the DADA movement, as he traveled the world incorporating local art styles into his Dadaist paintings. While many people drifted in an out of the "beat scene" and eventually moved on, Turk never "squared off" and was absolutely "beat" to the core until his death from cancer in 2004. Eeeeyaaah, fuckin' beautiful, baby!! (As Turk would say....)

<http://www.metroactive.com/papers/sonoma/07.13.00/leclair-0028.html>

--- courtesy by Elaine Forzano

Hi I could not find Turk. A lot of other friend's though. Dino Valenti and I were very close. I was with Turk for the 4 months before he died in Pahoia Hawaii. He spent a great deal of time at my house. As the end of his life approached he became more and more like a real saint, a beat saint, a guy who saw that it is all really perfect. I was with him at his last breath also and have the photos thru out the entire time. Also the photos of his incredible smile, a collection of his poems and pictures. We played music together until the last day under the Hawaiian stars. His happiness was infectious. I never saw such a transformation. Love to all Michael
---courtesy of Michael Bowen.



Young Turk: Le Clair stares down the camera back in 1959.

Life Less Ordinary

Local counterculture icon Turk Le Clair tells his story

By Patrick Sullivan

WHERE HAVE all the bohemians gone? We've heard a lot of talk lately about the transformation of the radicals of the '50s and '60s into the social elite of the '90s. Read enough books like David Brooks' *Bobos in Paradise* and you might start to believe that every last beatnik, hippie, and countercultural radical from days of yore has settled comfortably into the corporate groove of the information age.

But, as folks in Northern California well know, there are more than a few of the old-school bohos still out there, living the dream and looking for that undiscovered country that lies across the sea from the cappuccino-colored continent of our grave new world.

Chief among their disorderly ranks locally is the inimitable Turk Le Clair. You won't, of course, find him next to Hugh Coddington on official lists of the 50 most influential people in Sonoma County. But the artist, poet, and adventurer is something of a legend in Santa Rosa, where he has lived for two decades and where stories of his colorful exploits are common currency.

Now, at age 64 and in failing health, Le Clair is giving us his own version of his life in *My Life in Art*. This self-published autobiography (which can be ordered directly from Le Clair for \$25 at P.O. Box 4583, Santa Rosa, CA 9540 from 2) takes readers on a rousing romp across the turbulent decades of Le Clair's eccentric existence. It tracks his adventures New York to San Francisco to the legendary Purple Onion Coffee House in Texas.

Some books have a dedication page. *My Life in Art* has a dedication chapter, which sports a six-page list of names, from Arthur Rimbaud to Shel Silverstein to "Teresa & Venissa who walked topless for freedom & to show the tattoos around their nipples."

Written in longhand and festooned with examples of Le Clair's paintings, drawings, and photography, *My Life in Art* begins with a warning of sorts. "I feel I must pass over much of my life," Le Clair explains. "Some was glorious & some was too stupid for words." Yet the book feels complete enough, offering more examples of painful honesty than most autobiographies.

Life for Le Clair began during a New York City winter. He had a rough childhood, caught between his father's blue-collar expectations and his own profound interest in art and adventure. School felt like jail to the restless teenager: "I failed English, reading, spelling, math, gym & most of the rest of it; year after year," Le Clair writes. "It was an early sign of my genius that the school could teach me nothing."

It wasn't long before Le Clair let slip the surly bonds of childhood to set out on a journey that has continued ever since. As a young man, he helped run a jazz club in New York City for a time, until police forced Le Clair and his collaborators out. Among the best stories in this book is the author's account of disposing of the club's piano. Unable to fit it onto a truck, surrounded by hostile neighbors, the group comes up with a novel solution: "We got our hammers, a crowbar, what have you, & we beat the piano into small pieces while the neighbors watched in horror at our energy & violence."

Legendary names pop up on a regular basis in the author's narrative. From William Morris to Allen Ginsberg to Shel Silverstein, Le Clair encountered most of the big names of the counterculture. He hung out with Andy Warhol, lived with Wavy Gravy, and helped block New York traffic by planting a tree in the middle of the street with Abbie Hoffman.

Throughout this sprawling narrative, Le Clair demonstrates all the strengths and weaknesses of his era. (When he refers to a female friend as a "women" you get the feeling the misspelling might be a Freudian slip.)

But who cares about spelling? Raw and vivid, this book offers an absorbing account of a life lived outside the high walls of convention. Left mute and in pain from cancer and a serious operation, Le Clair won't be with us for much longer, as he explains: "Some day the Angel of Death will come for me. I struggle to finish this book; once it's delivered into everyone's hands, I'll feel free." Spirits lightened by Le Clair's compelling autobiography, his readers may feel their own bonds loosen.

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"Pipe Dream" 1967