



They Cry Loudest

There's no other publishing concern like that of Marseille based Le Dernier Cri (The Last Scream) whose stock in trade is extreme, unrepressed artistic expression. Founded in 1993, emerging from the ashes of the "underground zine" movement of Paris in the 1980s, Le Dernier Cri has published well over 150 books, the majority of which are still hand printed using the silk screen press, making them small works of art, which they continue to sell for peanuts. The publishers work their derrieres off to gather and promote art which is too far *outrée* in it's emotional or psychological content, violent or vulgar to have a place in the commercial world of comix (except as influences), and many of these artists would probably remain unknown until they died and someone found their apartment full of shocking works. LDC have promoted the careers of so many artists that I can't even begin to describe their place in the international underground world of graphic art.

Here is my biased report of the two characters who form Le Dernier Cri and their empire: Pakito Bolino *appears* to be the brains of the operation but his consort, Caroline Sury actually works one hemisphere of that brain. They seem to share many of the reproductive organs of the organization. I get the feeling that he is pumping the heart & testicles, while she handles much of the digestive work. Both are prolific artists of considerable talent and somehow find the time to make books of their own magnificent works on a regular basis. The two of them are responsible for the majority of the labor involved in creating a dozen or more books per year, numerous posters and ongoing animation projects. They continually host a rotating court of international graphic artists for the sole purpose of producing books, posters and collaborative animated films based on a set theme. Their first effort, *Le Dernier Cri* 1997 is too sick for words, *Hôpital Brut* 1999 is an hour's worth of tawdry vignettes set in a psychiatric hospital, and god only knows what the recently completed *Savage Religion* has to offer. They've been toiling on it for several years now. The artists who contribute to these animated projects are given the freedom to work in whatever medium they please, which gives the films a delicious texture and allure. Caroline and Pakito have contributed some saucy live action autopsies, botched abortions and police interrogations while dressed in bombastic costumes bearing the signature LDC look. Otherwise claymation, handmade dolls, computer generated activities and old school painted animation still dominate much of the work that shows up on these freak shows. I don't know anything about Pakito except that one of his parents was a pirate, that he was spoiled beyond civility, and trained to believe that he should do anything his heart desired, which he does with gusto. Caroline is the daughter of a traveling brassiere salesman and could've easily had a career in the Folies Bergeres but for her wicked sense of humor. Please be advised that she has a genius for impersonations that would make your hair stand up. They have a humongous studio, a ratty car and a beautiful little boy named Oskar who looks smarter than both of them.

The fact that Le Dernier Cri produce, publish and screen print their own books and posters, as well as create their animated films themselves, is so rare that it qualifies them as candidates for the bug house too, in my book. Nonetheless, shouldn't they receive some kind of civil service award for this effort? Please buy as much of their product as you can. TRAD 189

Georganne Deen

