

# Hindsight foresight

*ArtReview* invites art-world luminaries to nominate an artist whom they feel has been neglected over the years or a young artist who deserves more attention. **Massimiliano Gioni** (above, right), artistic director of the Fondazione Nicola Trussardi, Milan, and co-curator of the 4th Berlin Biennial, nominates the inimitable Dorothy Iannone.

At 72, Dorothy Iannone is a foxy lady with a great sense of humour and an unstoppable energy. Having worked through almost five decades of art history, Iannone – an American expatriate living in Berlin since the Seventies – is the keeper of an incredible wealth of stories, detailing and mythologising the adventures of friends and colleagues from the Fluxus days on.

Her drawings, books, paintings and correspondences are also precious documents and imaginary rewritings of her own eventful life, featuring her lover and companion Dieter Roth.

Besides recording in her chronicles the spirit of a few artistic revolutions, Iannone has been building an extensive body of work, all devoted to a blissful, pansexual joy. With beatnik eroticism and cacophonous, psychedelic enthusiasm,

Iannone paints and draws a life of sexual explosions and fairy-tale communion with the universe. Her video pieces are often incorporated in large boxes of painted sculptural wood.

Her hyper-decorativism looks even more hypnotic and excessive now: her works are neo-arts and crafts, perfectly poised between retro and outrageously contemporary. See one of her *Orgasm Boxes* and you'll understand what I mean.

Here are a few taboos Iannone has broken in her career. In 1961 she imported banned books by Henry Miller into the USA. Her legal battle with the US government resulted in the suspension of the censorship against Miller and other authors. In 1967 she published a book in which she listed all the men she had ever slept with. Sound familiar? In 1969 her explicit paintings



caused a scandal in Bern and convinced the curator of the Kunsthalle to resign in protest against censorship. Guess who that was? Harald Szeemann.

After a few years of relative obscurity, Iannone is finally gaining the attention her larger-than-life persona deserves. In 2005 she had a retrospective exhibition at Sprengel Museum in Hannover. This winter she had an exhibition in the Wrong Gallery at Tate Modern. Her work is included in this year's Whitney Biennial, and an exhibition with Lee Lozano is also forthcoming at the Kunsthalle Vienna.

Dorothy Iannone will exhibit with Lee Lozano at Kunsthalle Vienna, 7 July-22 Oct (+43 1 52189 1201, [kunsthallevienna.at](http://kunsthallevienna.at))

**Above:** Dorothy Iannone, *Love the Stranger*, 1981, gouache on synthetic board, 142 x 102cm  
**Left:** *Penthesilea and Achilles*, 1980, gouache on board, 81 x 100cm