

FOREWORD

CONSTANCE: REPLICAS AND REPLACEMENTS IS MADE POSSIBLE, FIRST AND FOREMOST, BY THE ARTISTS WHO FILL ITS PAGES. ILLUSTRATORS, GRAPHIC DESIGNERS, PAINTERS, GRAFFITI ARTISTS, PHOTOGRAPHERS AND WRITERS- BOTH THOSE DISPLACED AND THOSE WHO HAVE RETURNED TO NEW ORLEANS- HAVE COME TOGETHER IN A COLLECTION THAT REAFFIRMS THE VITALITY OF THE LOCAL ARTS COMMUNITY. THE CITY'S ARTISTS AND WRITERS CONTINUE TO PRODUCE ASTOUNDING WORK IN SPITE OF HARDSHIP. THIS BOOK HONORS THAT RESILIENCE.

CONCEIVED AS AN OUTLET FOR WORKING ARTISTS, CONSTANCE AIMS TO EXPOSE TO A BROADER AUDIENCE THE CHARACTER OF A CITY THAT IS OFTEN MISUNDERSTOOD AND MISINTERPRETED. RATHER THAN A PLACE DEFINED BY TRAGEDY, NEW ORLEANS REMAINS AN EVER-CHANGING COMMUNITY UNITED BY A SPIRIT OF DEFIANCE. THE WORK SHOWCASED HERE IS REPRESENTATIVE OF THESE QUALITIES, AND AS SUCH, IS REPLETE WITH STUNNING COLOR AND INSIGHT. MEANT NOT ONLY TO ENTERTAIN, THE FOLLOWING PAGES CELEBRATE THE INFINITE POSSIBILITIES OF BOTH THE PRESENT MOMENT AND THOSE YET TO COME.

THE BOOK'S DESIGN IS INTENDED TO CREATE AN OVERALL THEME AS WELL AS HIGHLIGHT THE INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS. AS YOU READ, YOU WILL NOTICE THAT WE'VE DEVOTED SPACE TO ARTISTS' BIOGRAPHIES, CONTACT INFORMATION AND RECENT PUBLICATIONS. IN DOING SO, WE HOPE TO BRING ATTENTION TO EACH PERSON'S STORY- AS WRITTEN IN HIS OR HER OWN WORDS- AND TO HELP REESTABLISH FRACTURED PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS. MANY ARTISTS LOST ACCESS TO THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SPACES THAT THEY DEPENDED ON TO BRING THEIR WORK TO THE PUBLIC. CONSTANCE AIMS TO FILL THAT VOID. THINK OF THIS BOOK AS A CITY GALLERY- ONLY WITH BETTER LIGHTING.

WE HOPE THAT, AS YOU READ AND RETURN TO CONSTANCE, YOU FIND OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE IT WITH OTHERS AND TO SEEK OUT THESE ARTISTS' WORK ON YOUR OWN. IT IS OUR WISH THAT THIS PROJECT WILL LIVE ON IN FUTURE VOLUMES SO THAT LOCAL ARTISTS MAY CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE RECOGNITION AND EXPOSURE THAT THE BOOK PROVIDES.

- PATRICK STRANGE, *EDITOR*