

ARTS & BOOKS

A TOUR OF L.A., DECADE BY DECADE ARCHITECTURE
BY [Name]



BIG TOPIC NEEDS BIG BOOK: THE UNIVERSE
BOOK REVIEW BY [Name]



ART



JAN SWANKA designed banners for the Grateful Dead's 25th anniversary tour in 1995, seen above in L.A. Some more are up for auction.

HOLLYWOOD STAGE

Movies feeding theater scene

By [Name]

As theater-goers flock to the stage, Hollywood is feeding the scene. Theaters are seeing a resurgence in ticket sales, and many are reporting record-breaking opening weekends, according to the National Theatre Association.

"Theater is the heart of the city," says [Name], president of the Los Angeles Music Center. "It's a place where people can come together and experience something new. It's a place where people can escape their daily lives and immerse themselves in a world of imagination and creativity."

"Theater is a unique art form that has the power to bring people together and create a sense of community. It's a place where people can experience the beauty of the human condition and the power of the imagination."

Make a bid for piece of the Grateful Dead

By [Name]

The first-time poster artist and activist Jan Swanka lent the Grateful Dead's 25th anniversary tour in 1995, seen above in L.A. Some more are up for auction.

Fast forward to 2008. Swanka had settled in High Falls, N.Y., where Grateful Dead keeper Hal Kassar and his wife, Anne, were to sell. Kassar introduced Swanka to a rich, personal collection of Swanka's work. Among the Swanka pieces for sale: a 1960s hand-colored and hand-printed psychedelic poster titled "A Book of Poems" and a 1968, working telephone booth covered in writings on experience and consciousness that took place inside. (When calling the Kassar home, Jerry Garcia frequently placed calls from that phone booth.)

Kassar had a commission for Swanka. Design 20 banners for the Grateful Dead's 25th anniversary tour in 2009. The individual banners eventually were put into a 30-story-high, signature-of-redwood, multi-tiered tower of handprints, the sun and the leaves.

Kassar died in 2008, and now eight of those banners, plus other artworks by Swanka, Lorian Pinot, Jerry Garcia and Richard Dyer will be sold in a Dec. 8 online auction of the Kassar's collection.

"Many people aren't aware that both Garcia and Kassar had a lifelong interest in the fine arts," said Anne Swanka, daughter of Jan, who died in 2002. "Kassar loved the opera, collected Garcia Pinot and acquired a Franklin D. Roosevelt before it was built."

The auction starts at 8 p.m. Dec. 8 & is being run by Bonhams Auctions. www.bonhams.com



THE ARTIST covered a working telephone booth in art. Owned by Grateful Dead keeper Hal Kassar, it was used by Jerry Garcia.



A DETAIL of "Constitution #1" by Swanka, based on his memories of the talks across his father's bridge table in the Stalin era.