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Panamarenko

For Clever Scholars, Astronomers and Doctors

Panamarenko

Jon Thompson

ISBN	9789493039308
Publisher	Ludion
Binding	Hardback
Territory	USA & Canada
Size	11.75 in x 13.5 in
Pages	112 Pages
Illustrations	100 color
Price	$75.00

- Book completely designed and edited by the artist himself

During a career spanning more than 50 years, the Belgian visionary Panamarenko – engineer, poet, artist, physicist, inventor – conducted meticulous studies of the natural world and various scientific principles. He analyzed the secrets of the universe, gravity, and other energetic mysteries, and formulated both logical and well-considered solutions. His work was poetic, the result of a seamless coalescence of artistic skill and scientific research; the outcome of which could take the form of a flying saucer, backpack helicopter, flying carpet, zeppelin, solar powered car, submarine, or prehistoric mechanical bird. Each of his spectacular constructions possessed not only a peculiar beauty and naive playfulness, but also a degree of conspicuous consideration. In 2001, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Ghent held a retrospective of Panamarenko's work, for which the artist designed and wrote this oversized catalog – a work of art in its own right.

Henri Van Herwegen (5 February 1940-14 December 2019), known by the pseudonym of **Panamarenko**, was a prominent Belgian artist. He is famous for his work with aeroplanes as theme; none of which are able nor constructed to actually leave the ground. **Jon Thompson** was emeritus professor of Fine Art at Middlesex University in England and the author of *How to Read a Modern Painting*, among other titles.

Published 1st Jul 2020