

File Rolling Thunder IV

THE ART ECONOMIST

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R. Sue Smith
Associate Director
Spaces
1804 North Van Ness
Los Angeles, California 90028

Dear Ms. Smith,

Thanks for your letter of December 17. I did not receive your letters of August 13 or October 10. The enclosed statement will clarify my relationship to Art Express. Since the statement was issued a year and some months ago, the erstwhile publisher, Bruce Helander, ran circulation down from 35,000 -- the height, when I was forced to leave -- to a low of under 9,000. A few weeks back, the magazine simply folded.

Mail addressed to me during this interim was held at Providence and was not forwarded, despite an agreement reached between Helander, the Post Office and me. Helander, inefficient and rude to the last, failed to answer mail that he deemed neither necessary to his purse nor important to the magazine. Therefore, even though your letters weren't forwarded, they went unanswered. But this could be expected from the man described in the statement.

After the collapse of the magazine, Helander's assistant notified the post office that all mail to the old New York box was no longer desired. As a result, I now receive my mail. Thus, after this long delay, your response. Even so, I can no longer fulfill your request for back issues nor for subscriptions. I imagine that had Bruce Helander been able to manage his mail or his affairs, perhaps the magazine would not have been so swiftly or thoroughly decimated. As a sadly plucked limited partner, whatever my disagreements with the man's ethics or lack of them, I should have been glad to have him sell massive loads of back issues to organizations with large memberships or to obtain much-needed favorable publicity in organizational bulletins.

I hope this answers your cheerfully detailed questions and hypotheses. As you can see from my letterhead, I am gainfully employed in a new publishing venture, The Art Economist. If you follow Forbes or Venture or similiar magazines, you may have read about us. If I can be of any help to you, I do answer my mail.

Sincerely, 