



Holy Pop Art

SISTER CORITA'S VIVID RENAISSANCE

This year marks the 21st anniversary of the death of **Frances Elizabeth Kent**, more widely known as **Sister Corita**, the Andy Warhol of Hollywood. Sister Corita was a nun, a member of the West Coast's Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, under whose progressive roof Corita developed and taught her art, a cutting-edge populist imagery in the vein of her more famous, mainstream Pop-art peers. Sister Corita used familiar 1960s artistic methods to spread the priorities of her spiritual life, namely religion and goodness, in a star-

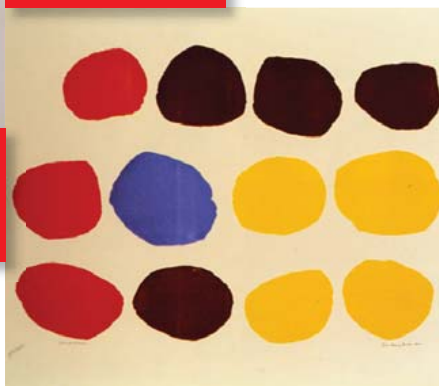
ART SANCTUARY

Below, serigraphy workshop at Immaculate Heart College; Corita is standing fourth from left.



SPIRITED MESSAGE

Left, *Jesus Never Fails*, 1967; below, *Wonderbread*, 1962; both by Sister Corita.



ting yet accessible way. She and the women she taught used silk screens, brilliant colors, contemporary slogans. She herself forsook black habits for bright, joyful clothes. *The New York Times* wrote that she "did for bread and wine what Andy Warhol did for tomato soup."

Sister Corita was put on the cover of *Newsweek* in the 1960s; it was criticized severely by conservative Catholics but was adored by everyone else. Her champions included **Henry Miller**, **Buckminster Fuller**,

Charles and Ray Eames, and **John Cage**. At the height of her fame, she left the convent where this revolution took place and disappeared into a more peaceful existence, with fewer deadlines and, presumably, more sleep. Commemorating

her life and work is, at last, a colorful, incisive book by **Julie Ault**, *Come Alive! The Spirited Art of Sister Corita*, to be launched at the Hammer Museum this month.

Printed with Day-Glo inks to enhance the vivid hues of Sister Corita's art and designed by the award-winning **Nick Bell**, the book is the handiwork of Four Corners, a high-end British art-publishing house run by **Elinor Jansz**, wife of the young British art collector **Alexander Sainsbury**. We should be most grateful to the insightful Ms. Jansz for bringing Sister Corita back to the cultural horizon.

—VICKY WARD

A ROYAL COLLABORATION

The new candle line Sarah, Duchess of York, Tea Collection, which launches next month, is a joint venture by Sarah Ferguson and home-fragrance king Harry Slatkin. "Among life's pleasures for me is sitting down to a steaming and fragrant cup of tea," says the duchess. "The soothing quality of tea inspired my collection." Available in five fragrances—Bergamot Tea, Rose Ginger Tea, White Tea Ginger, Green Tea and Mint Leaves, and Mandarin Green Tea—the candles will be available at Bath & Body Works. "This was about creating something that embodies the duchess," says Slatkin. And he would know. Candles are his special-ty.

—JESSICA FLINT



The Duchess candles come in tea canisters.



David Geffen favors the chocolate-covered fruits.

Fans of the chocolate-covered Oreos and graham crackers include **Steven Spielberg** and **Oprah Winfrey's** gang at Harpo Studios, in Chicago.

Madonna loves the chocolate-covered marshmallows.

Lauren Bacall loves the box of assorted chocolates.

Sweet Dreams

The story goes that in 1996, after actress **Shirley Jones** sampled one of the hand-dipped chocolates in the jewel-box-size candy store **Edelweiss Chocolates** of Beverly Hills, on Canon Drive, she went home and told her husband, producer **Marty Ingels**, that she had fallen in love. Ingels went to try the candy for himself, and after the cashier totaled his purchases, he asked, "Now, how much for the whole store?" Ingels and Jones went on to buy a share of the business. Everything about Edelweiss, which opened its doors in 1942, is heavenly. Its legion of fans

have included **Lucille Ball**—whose famous *I Love Lucy* episode where she and Ethel work in a chocolate factory was inspired by the confectionery machine that still operates in the back of the store—**Nancy Reagan**, **Lauren Bacall**, **Katharine Hepburn** (who wrote about the dark-chocolate turtles in her book, *Me*), Saudi princes (who come in with eight guards!), **Madonna**, **Steven Spielberg**, and **Leonardo DiCaprio**. One of the best parts about the establishment is that, if you're a regular customer, you need only call and tell them you're on your way: they keep a record of all your favorite treats.

—PUNCH HUTTON

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JEFF HARRIS
[CANDLE, CHOCOLATES]