

El País

18 February 2012

The ICU of forgotten books

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Translated by GOOGLE TRANSLATE

The Reanimation Library project moves with enviable fluency between two stools: the printer and computer. Among the used bookstore and live online archive open to anyone who wants to see, add or use any of their amazing images, Andrew Beccone project was born ten years ago when the librarian decided to start saving from the fire of garbage curious picture books.

His idea has lived these days your particular height: dozens of boxes left their small space in Brooklyn to move to MoMA, where the funds in your library are now part of the workshop Print Studio, the exhibition side event Print / Out, which opens this weekend with pieces of Ai Weiwei, Ellen Gallagher, Martin Kippenberger, Lucy McKenzie, Museum in Progress, Editions Jacob Samuel and Thomas Schütte.

The humble Beccone project has thus become study material and labor or, better, in the living proof that print is still an inexhaustible source of beauty and surprises. "I started the collection when I found the number of books that nobody wanted and which contained striking images," he explains. "They were carrying no economic value but with an obvious cultural value for the illustrations they contained. Slowly I began to collect what others threw. "

And the trash, that container inexhaustible cultural heritage, threatened to swallow surprising discarded books, cornered, hopeless or forgotten. Books on mammals, mollusks, about sex, about two things at once (The sex of the animals without backbones), botany, science, cooking ... Beccone has about 15,000 people now view, copy or just watch. On the web catalog, order and multiply. Navigate through the pages of these volumes may have lost texts validity but whose images revived as an artistic material.

Thus, although anyone interested The ten secrets of bowling many were astonished to see the drawings in this book by Don Carter, illustrated by Anthony Ravielli and published in 1963 by The Viking Press (New York). Or turn the page, or click-on the bodies of bats as they were seen in 1968 in an informative book for Random House entitled Bats, the wings of the night. Or the skeleton of a plane in another gem sixties: 747, the story of a superjet. Titles multiply: from a book of recipes Course hawiana basic sign language in NORTH AMERICA, The flight of birds or America's favorite trees. In all, the images of the past (candid, cheerful, beautifully primary) reveal details of how the world felt more adult when

in fact it was just a confused teenager or how our world was not so long ago. "We scan a few images of each book, cataloged and classified by topic. We marvel, curious books on science, sports or medicine. It is an endless project. Every time we get more books and the idea is that a library is infinite. "

Currently, funds fit into the 70 boxes that arrived at MoMA from Brooklyn. "We sent up the shelves because they wanted to play the library as is". For guerrilla Beccone libraries like yours (or "microbibliotecas" he says) has more future than many predict. "The problem is that many booksellers have felt amenazados online, but it was not my case. I am equally comfortable in both environments, you do not have to replace the other. They are condemned to understand "

[http://cultura.elpais.com/cultura/2012/02/17/actualidad/1329508489_054744.html]