

## COLOURING TOUR

A collection of artist's colouring books and posters  
Une collection d'albums et de posters d'artistes à colorier

In the publishing family related to drawing, coloring books could be seen as an economic model. Even when used, four-color printing is usually reserved only for the book cover. Most of the time it is composed of drawings in a single black color with strokes of varying thicknesses and surfaces to fill.

The colouring book is with its principle of adding colors, shapes... the first kind of interactive art editions. These are editions that are meant to be colored, scribbled, crossed out, adding, cutting, pasting and interfering with or without respect to its content. Colouring-tour is an incongruous assemblage of books, sketchbooks and posters ...to be colored made by artists of different origins. This moving collection that crosses the multiple practices of contemporary drawing evolve in the pleasure of meetings, trades and travels. We discover self-published propositions in limited amounts and specialized publishers projects distributed in greater numbers. With their different forms and questionings, these editions we have to temper with act as a source of invention and particularly intense exploration.

The little folk painting book published in 1879 in the United States is often identified as the first coloring book. Shortly after followed Buster Paint Book in 1907, then the Épinal prints and Les albums du père Castor in the thirties in France. It has its glory in the United States and Europe in the sixties with books where we meet the heroes of television programs, movies, comics or cartoons. It is also used as blotting paper or advertising gift for food and household goods.... But this is another story.

Coloring books and the very act of coloring is much more than a way for children to spend free time and more than just an educational asset. It lies also beyond the therapeutic field and its simple anti-stress property widely used today nor its ability to help cure Alzheimer's disease.

It is found in the field of politics and militants. There's a lot of example since the Black Panther coloring book edited by the FBI aiming to discredit the militant organism and later with The Cunt Colouring Book by Tee Corinne whose latest version is present in this collection.

Many projects use these editions as collective spaces like Version proposed in 2001 by three artists: Mircea Cantor, Ciprian Muresan, Gabriela Vanga. Between the lines whose first edition was published in 2006 by the charity association Rxart gather with 5 successive publications the drawings of more than two hundred international artists from many generations. For other artists, illustrators, ... the coloring book, album and poster are linked to projects of exhibitions and events for which these editions have a role of its own.