

CHARLES DESMARAIS *Art*

A subscription of unusual statements

The Thing is hard to describe. It's a quarterly art publication, but the only object a subscriber will never find in the mail is a book or magazine. You might, though, receive a "trap-and-release set" conceived by Los Angeles artist Amanda Ross-Ho for catching spiders and other insects. It consists of a hand-blown drinking glass and — to help you reorient unwanted visiting invertebrates — a map of the world.

Earlier issues have included an artist-designed boomerang, an onion-cutting board inscribed with a tear-jerker story and a Dave Eggers-authored shower curtain.

Celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, the Thing was founded as an experimental project by artists Jonn Herschend and Will Rogan. Its circulation hovers between 700 and 1,000, Herschend said in a email, with subscribers across the U.S. and "a strong presence" in France, Germany, Japan, Mexico City and the United Kingdom. Individual issues are also sold at a few contemporary museums (the New Museum

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and P.S. 1 in New York, the Hammer in Los Angeles) and bookstores, and at the quarterly's office at 447 O'Farrell St. where, Herschend said, "We are always up for making someone an espresso."

Thing Issue 32, dreamed up by a Dutch design collective called Experimental Jetset, is a poncho in bold black-and-white, "100% cotton and made in South Carolina." It might look particularly good at a protest — though it could come in handy, too, on certain dates. Spread your arms and a one-word sentence — punctuated in Spanish but readable in English and several other languages — fairly shouts from the weave.

"¡No!" it says.

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Anna-Alexia Basile / The Thing

Issue 32 of the Thing sends an unambiguous message, the latest distinctive installment sent to subscribers.