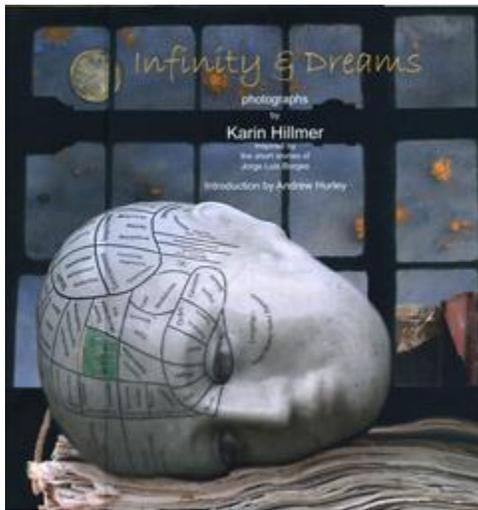




## Red Dog News #83 - by Tim Anderson

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**Karin Hillmer releases “Infinity & Dreams,” with a tip of the lens to author Jorge Luis Borges**



Jorge Luis Borges was a twentieth-century writer whose influence on literature and art cannot be denied. Many authors have claimed Borges as an integral influence in their writing: John Updike, Thomas Pynchon, Umberto Eco, Carlos Fuentes, etc.

His most famous books are compilations of short stories interconnected by common themes such as dreams, labyrinths, libraries, mirrors, animals, fictional writers, religion and God. His works have contributed to the genre of science fiction as well as the genre of mystical “reality,” a genre that reacted against the realism/naturalism of the nineteenth century.

In 1961 he came to international attention when he received the first ever Prix International, sharing the award with Samuel Beckett. In 1971 he won the Jerusalem Prize. His work was translated and published widely in the United States and in Europe.

Even though much of *Infinity & Dreams* (left, above) relates to Borges, it is Hillmer's personal translation of his words and ideas into her own originality of image that makes this a book worth having.



As always, the pendulum silently pierces holes into time

“Hillmer combines old paintings, old books, old artifacts, with new techniques and ideas, and the result is unsettling, provocative, endlessly revisitable, and quite beautiful. Looking at just a single photo-collage here could take hours; imagine taking in, in all its complexity, the entire series.”  
(from the Introduction by Andrew Hurley.)

In her Essay to open the book, Hillmer describes the process of her work: “In the beginning, at the end, I was born into a circle — a circle that evolves into an infinitely expanding spiral. I draw ideas from different horizons, bringing them together, and making them part of my story-telling.”

Her path to Borges began about two years ago when working with some old books, aged survivors of many homes, libraries, and page turnings. The unique beauty of torn covers enabled her to match them with artifacts she already had: pendulums, treasures gathered from travels here and abroad, and old paintings.

“There was one (Borges title) called *The Garden of Forking Paths*. I will always remember this powerful title from the moment it entered my mind. Immediately it took on a life of its own, and my imagination kept circling around it for weeks, opening up endless endless possibilities.”



Again the poet questions the wisdom we have lost in knowledge

Such is the value of opening your mind to the possibility of creative input. We seldom know where it comes from, what it wants, and even less about what to do with it. Allowing that title to “...and my imagination kept circling around it for weeks,” allowed Hillmer to be able to figure out what it wanted, and more importantly what to do with it.

Once you acquire *Infinity & Dreams*, it may take many readings to grasp its full impact. It certainly isn't a book to be “flipped through.” It deserves time and attention, even if it is just to understand the compelling titles for the images, as illustrated above.

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