

Cover image: *U.F.O.-naut J.K. (U.F.O.)*, 1980

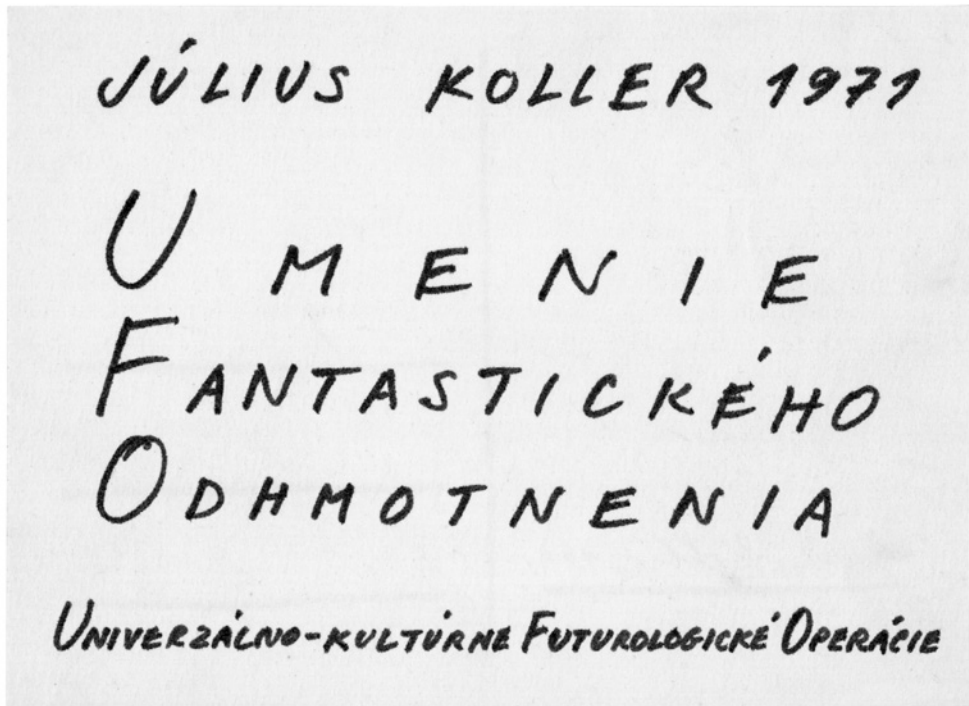
From the mid-1960s onwards, the late Slovakian artist Július Koller performed small interruptive acts in public and private spaces, creating situations that insinuated how reality might be—and become—otherwise. Such modest acts might consist of, for instance, staging table tennis matches in art spaces, graffitiing question marks or endless waves onto street walls with whipped cream, taking friends on mountain hikes up to a fictional U.F.O. gallery (“galéria” in Slovakian also means “mountain plateau”), or sending people his thoughts in the mail via postcards with diagrammatic texts. In his 1965 Anti-Happening manifesto, however, Koller stated that his primary aim was not to find “a way to put an artistic act into action,” but rather to work towards an overall “cultural reshaping of the subject [and] an awareness of the surroundings.” In view of this objective, Koller therefore considered his interventions and text pieces alike as “means of textual designation” and “cultural demarcation.”

After the quelling of the Prague Spring in August 1968, the art Koller practiced was practically barred from public exhibition. Yet his continued insistence on designating and reshaping the (cultural) conditions of consciousness on one’s own terms enabled him to transform his work from a marginal practice into one that \*performed the margins,\* perpetually re-demarcating the limits of prevailing conditions by pointing beyond them. One central, recurring action involved finding ever-new permutations of the acronym “U.F.O.,” which in Koller’s drawings variously came to stand for Universal Futurological Organisation, Univerzálny Filozofický Ornament, Underground Fantastic Organisation, Ultra-Fantastic Observation, and so on.

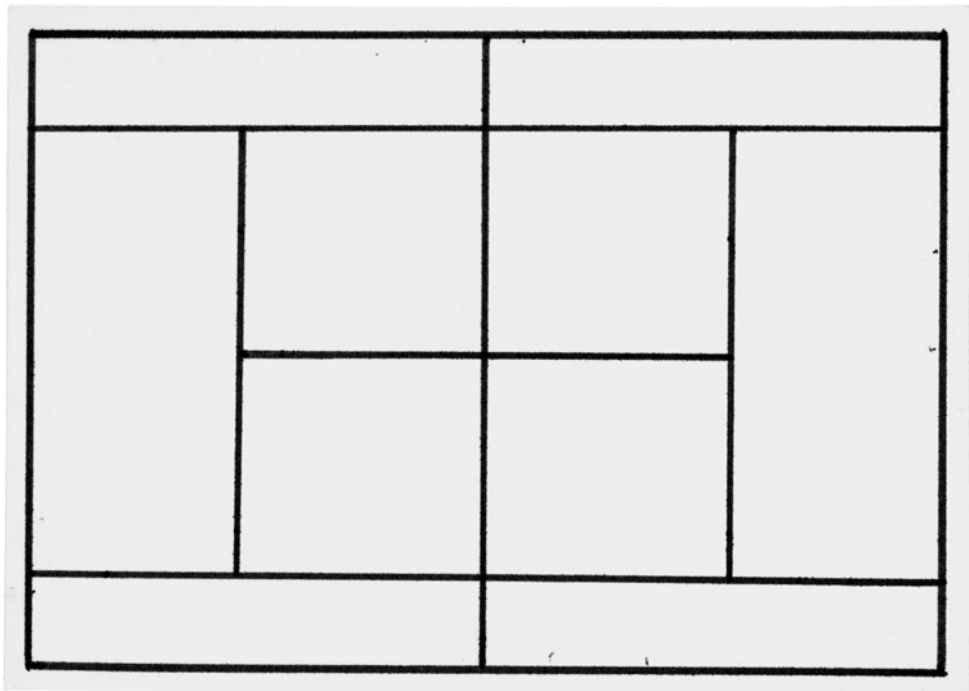
Repeating and modulating the acronym, Koller gave his practice a rhythm: the downbeat set by the steady pulse of the signifier U dot F dot O dot, the offbeat wildly signifying diverse political, philosophical or existential (and extraterrestrial) thoughts. The U.F.O. is a shifter. It persistently points to the gap between actuality and potentiality—a gap ideological power structures forcefully seek to close by propagating a status quo without alternatives. Reaching out to what lies (or flies) beyond the given is an act of romantic resistance. Koller works the signifier for what it’s worth, performing with the deadpan demeanor of a succinct semio-pragmatist: an idealist stance of defiance claimed—and sustained—with workable means!

(Jan Verwoert)

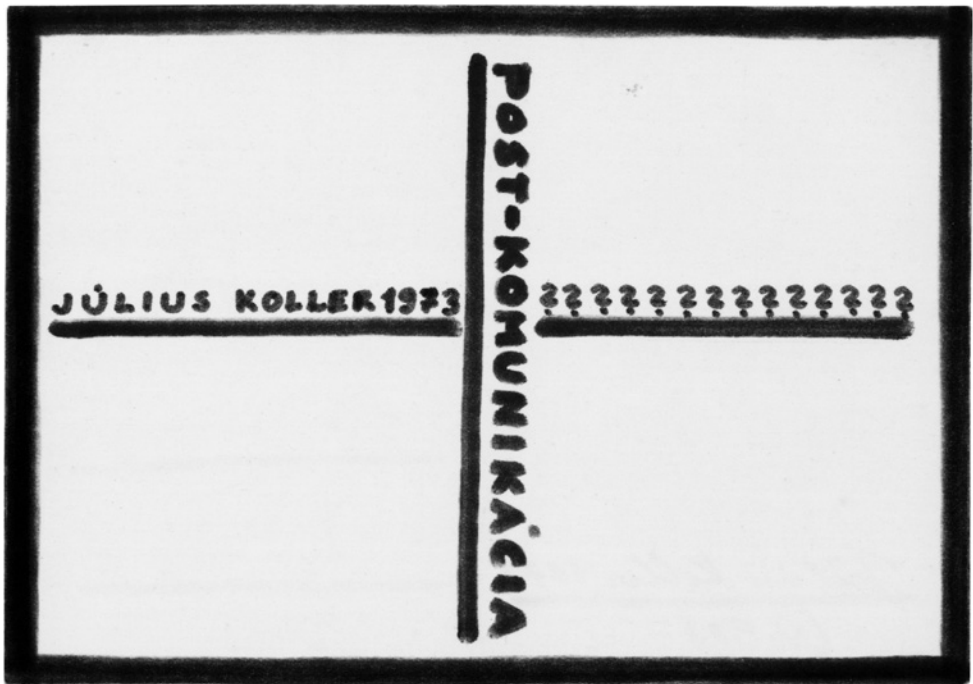
Translations by Peter Bilak; full captions on pp.51–52



(1) "Art of Fantastic Dematerialisation: Universal-Cultural Futurologic Operations"



(2) On reverse: "Artistic Physiocultural Image"



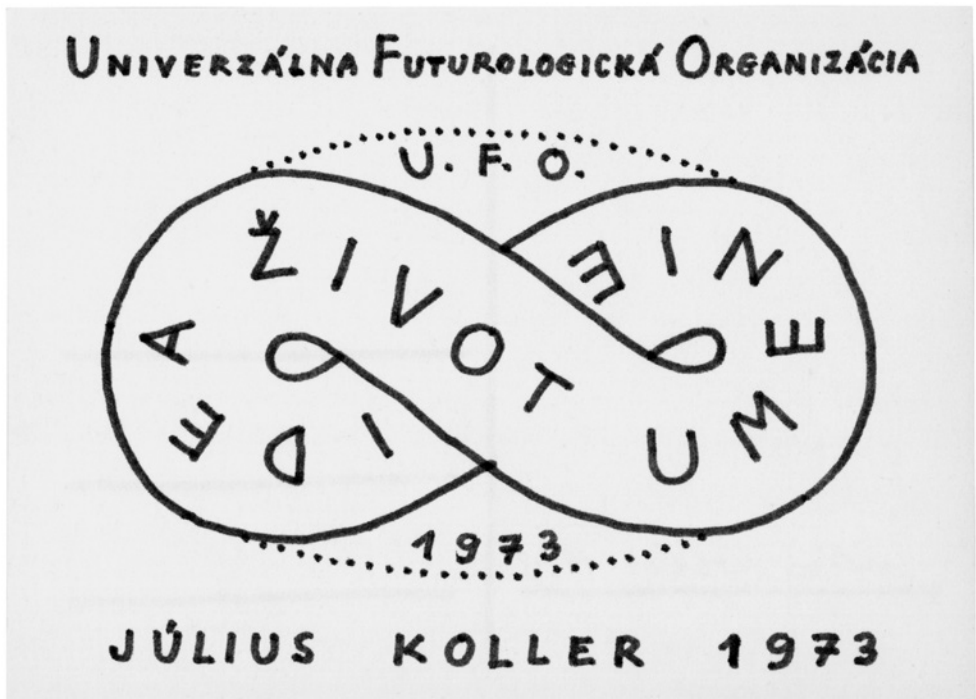
(3) "Post-communication"



(4) "Universal Fantastic Questionmark"



(5) "Universal Futurologist Organisation: past, present, future / live, man, death / microcosmos, macrocosmos"

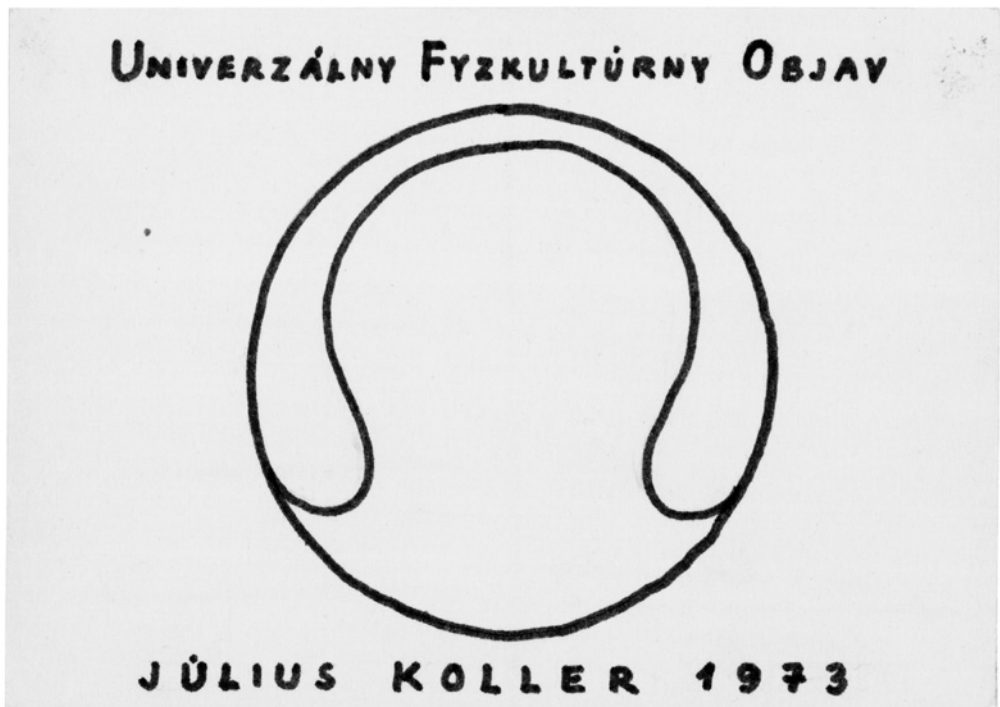


(6) "Universal Futurologist Organisation: idea, live, art"





(7) "Universal Physiocultural Orientation"



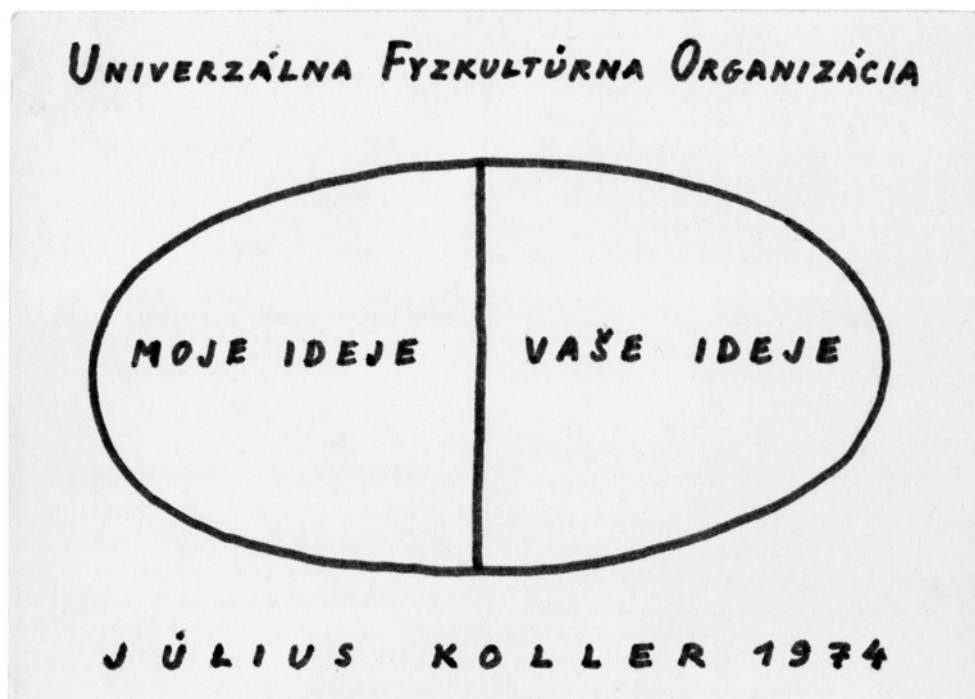
(8) "Universal Physiocultural Discovery"



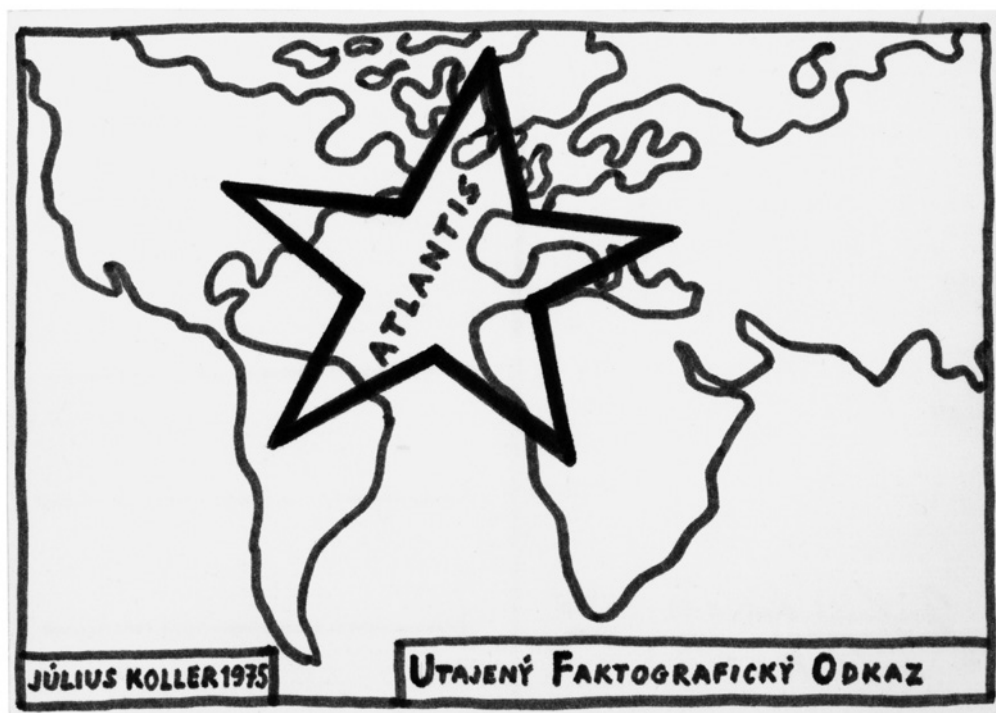
(9) "Mini-concepts of maxi-ideas"



(10) "Pollution (Art)"

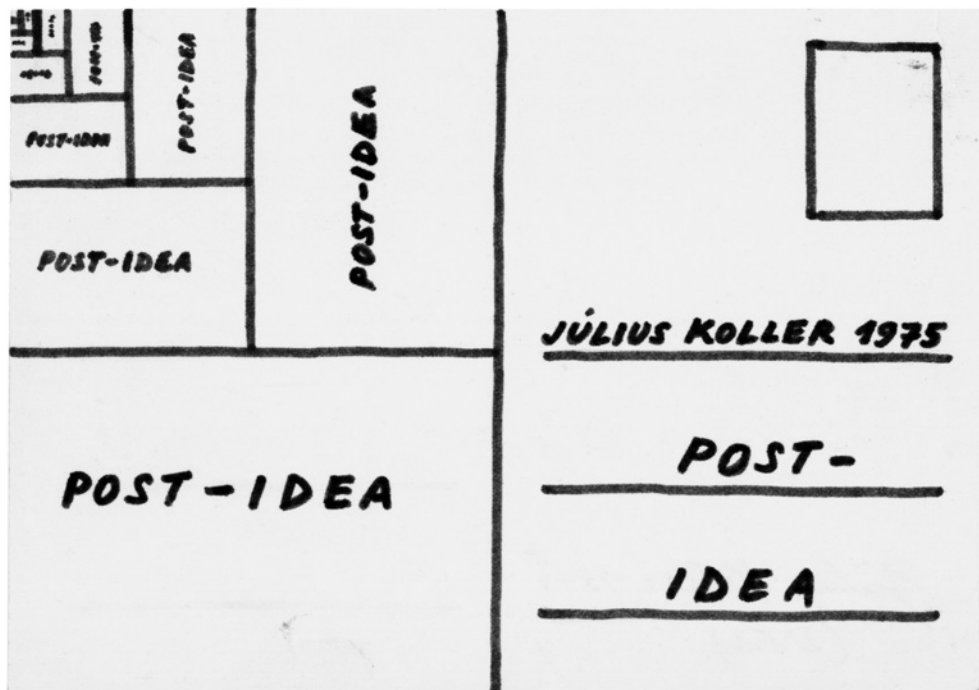


(11) "My Ideas / Your Ideas"

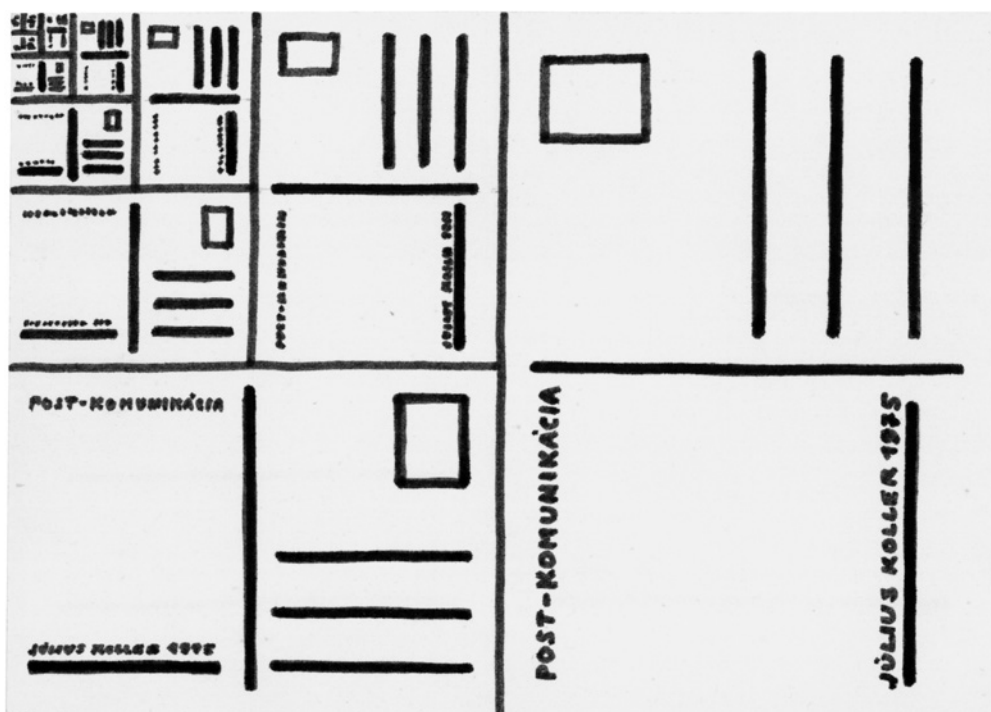


(12) "Secret Factographic Message"

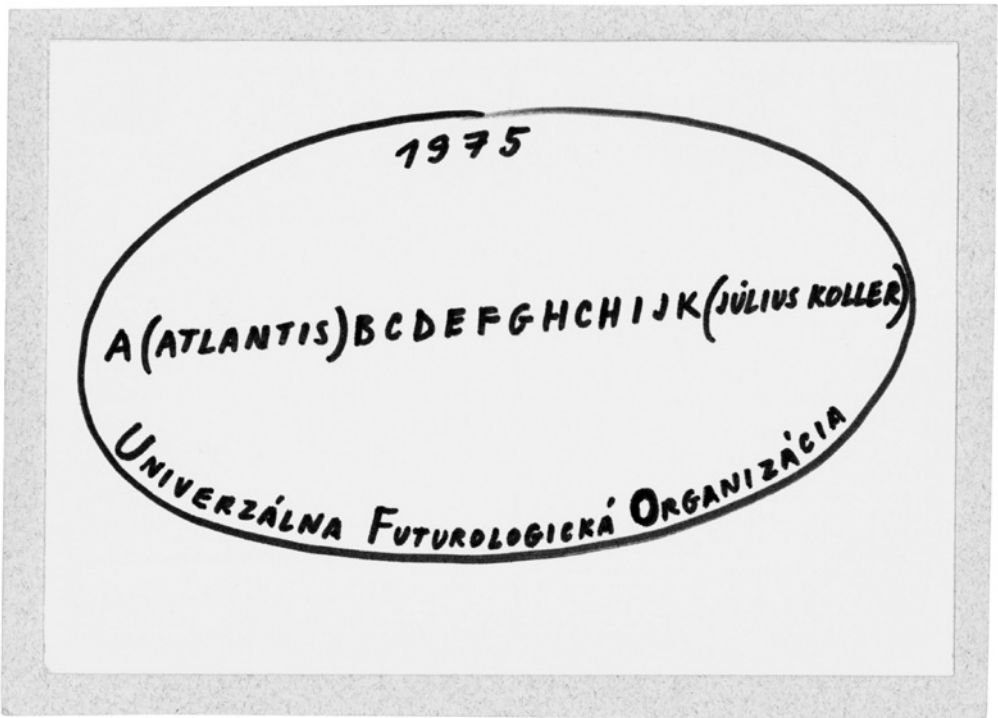




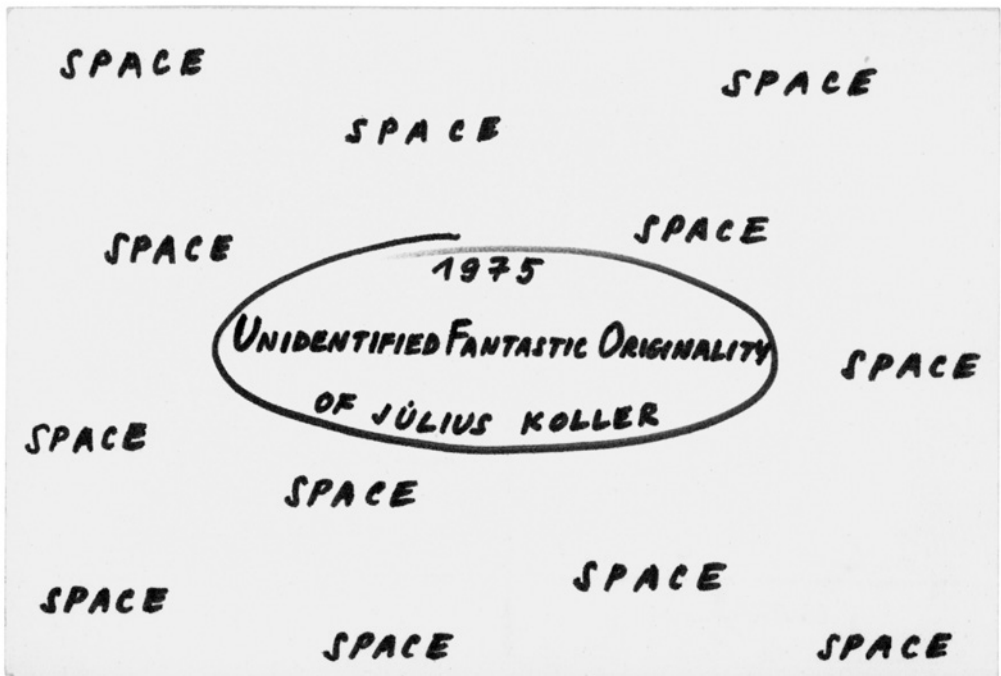
(13) "Post-Idea"



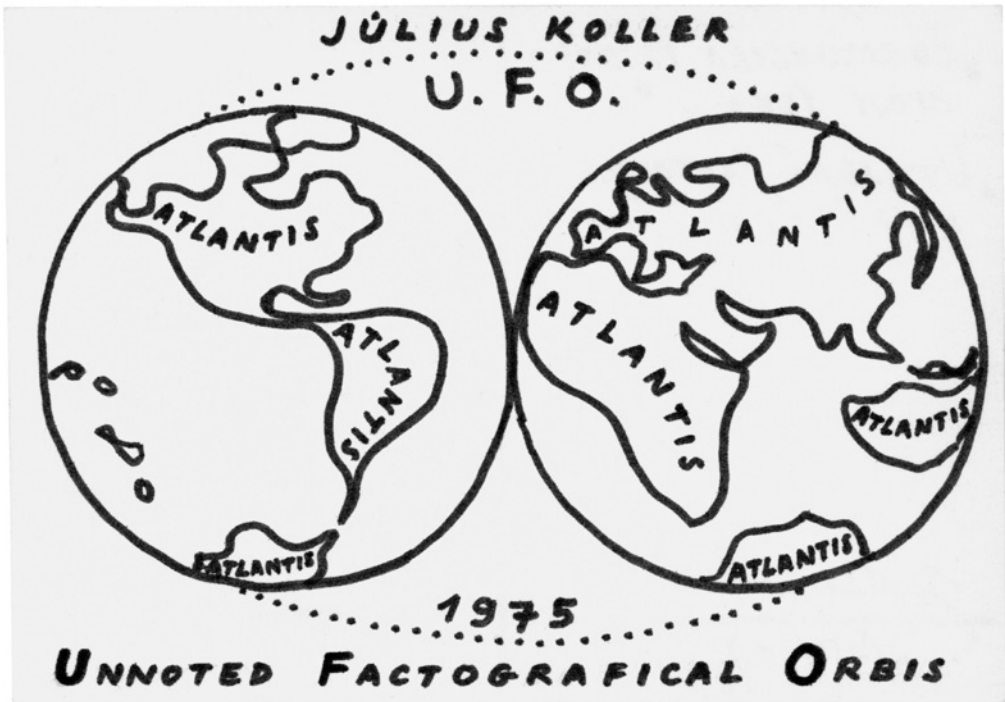
(14) "Post-communication"



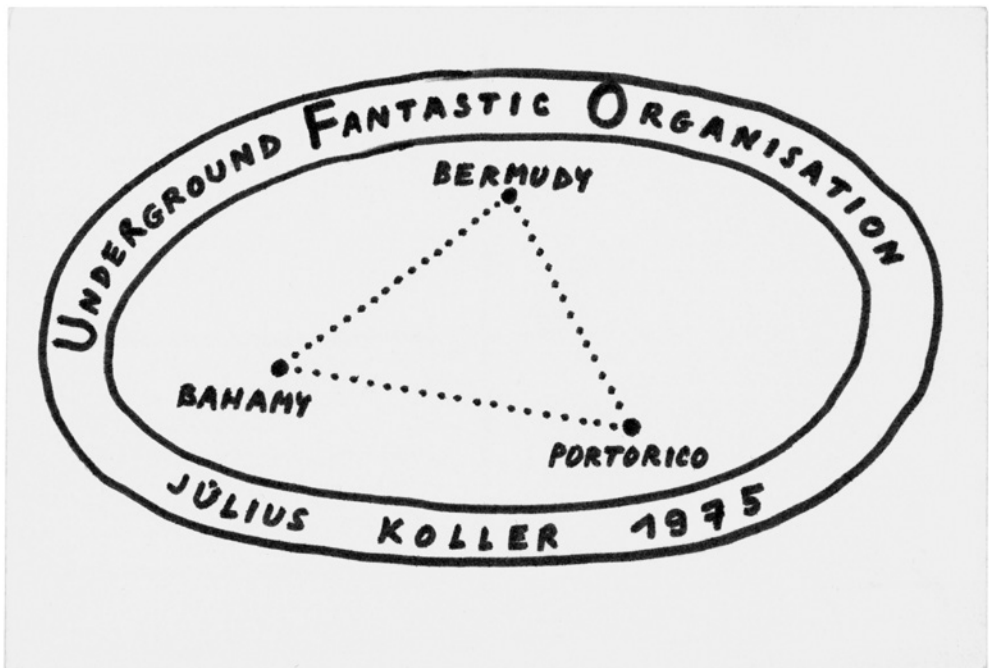
(15) "Universal Futurologist Organisation"



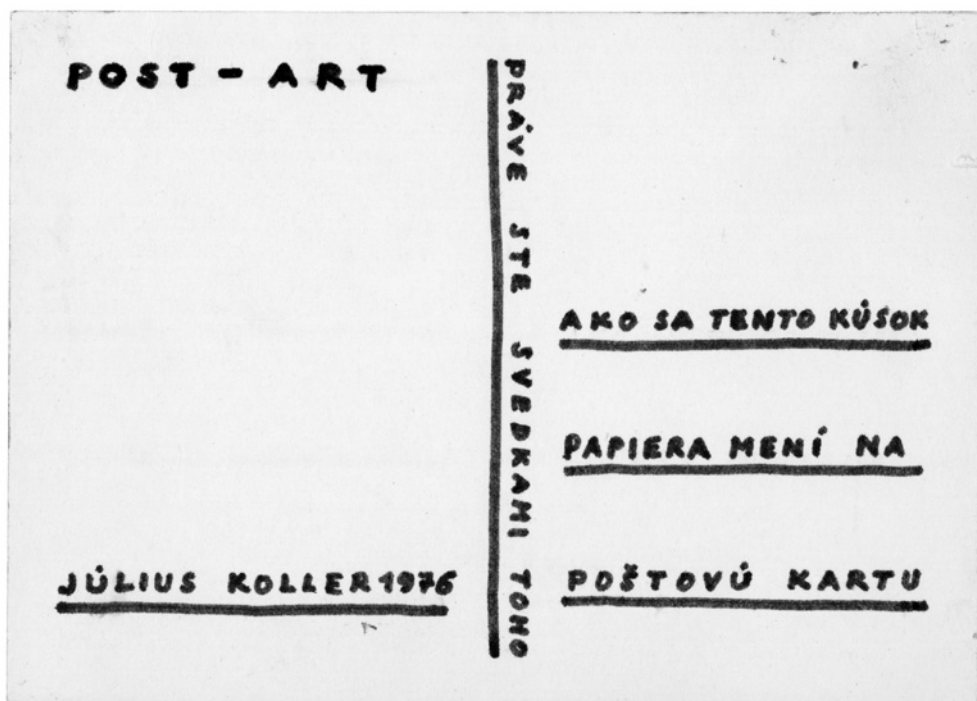
(16)



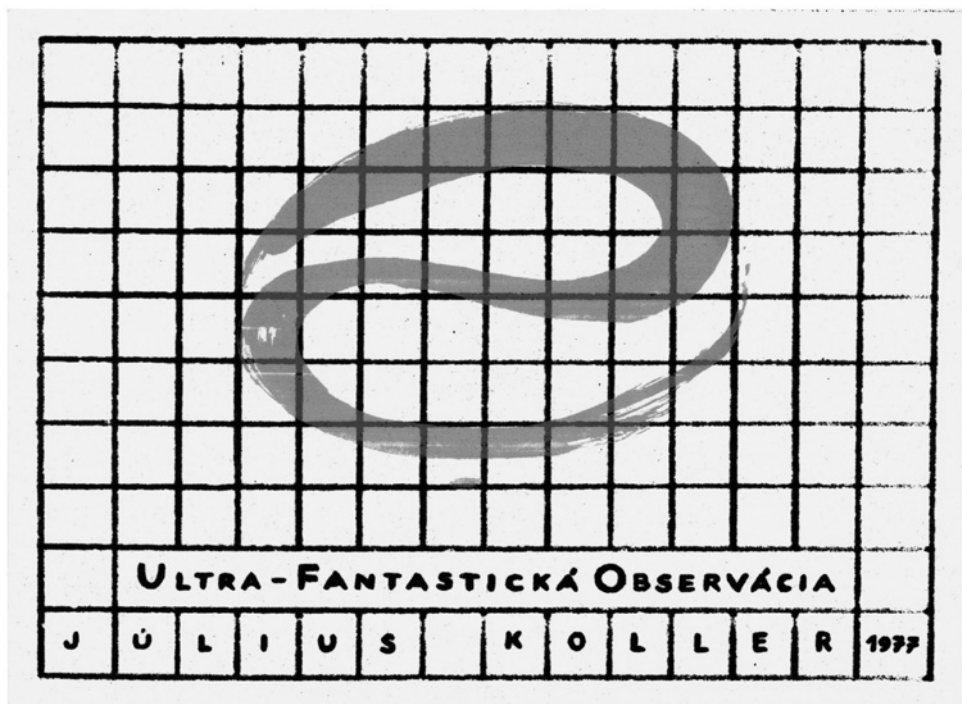
(17) On reverse: "What has been split by nature, will be connected by idea"



(18) Bermuda–Bahamas–Puerto Rico



(19) "You are just witnessing how this piece of paper is turning into a post card"

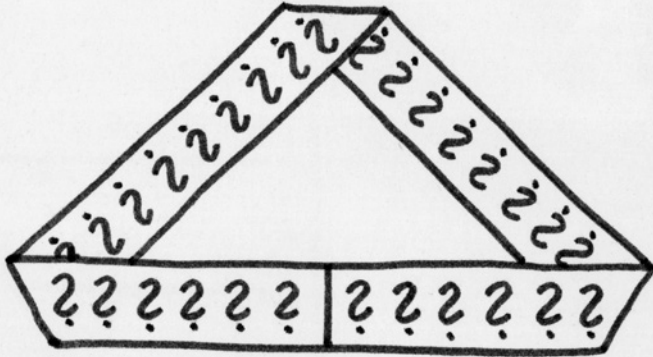


(20) "Ultra-Fantastic Observation"



13

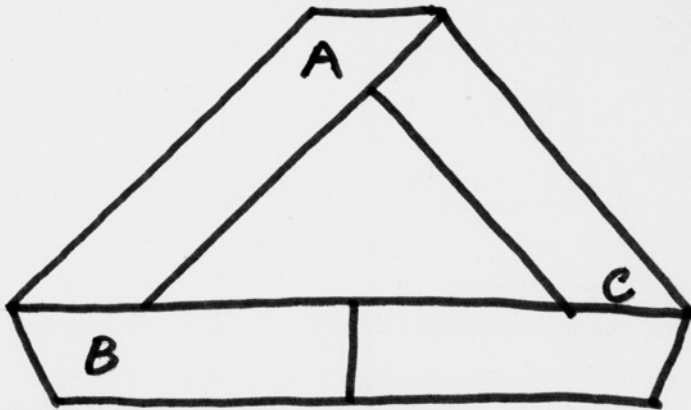
# UNIVERZÁLNE FUTUROLOGICKÉ OTÁZNIKY



JÚLIUS KOLLER 1978

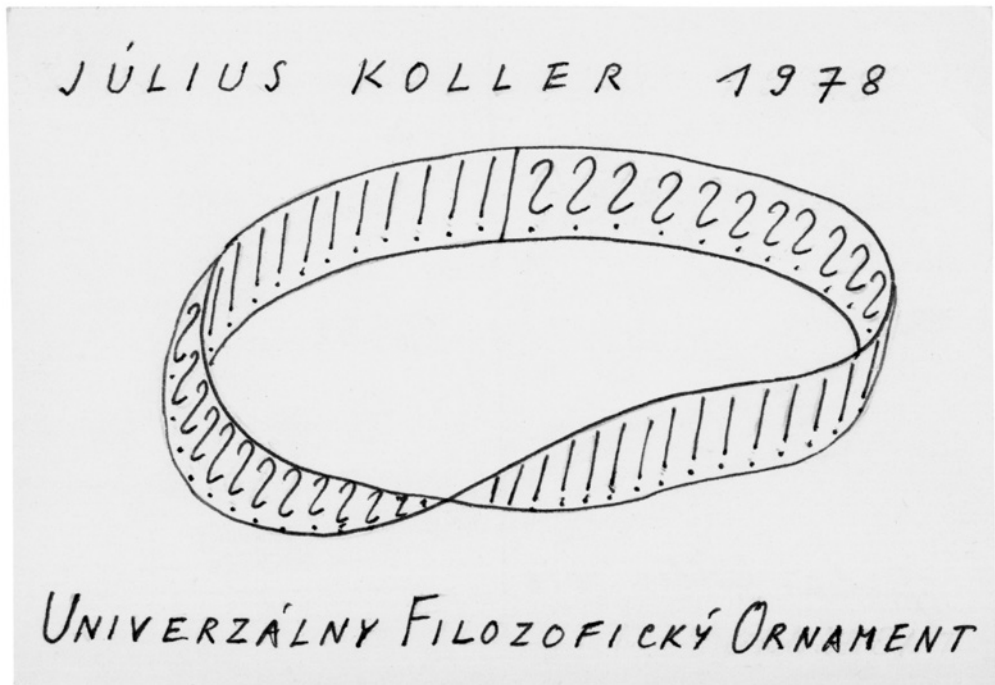
(23) "Universal Futurologic Questionmarks"

JÚLIUS KOLLER 1978

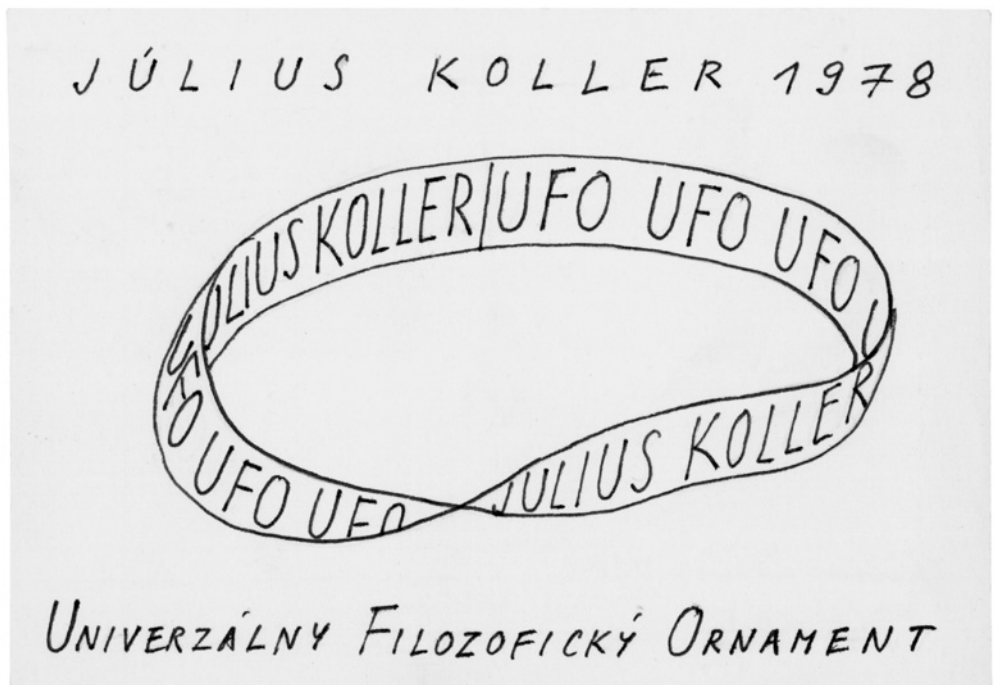


UNIVERZÁLNY FILOZOFICKÝ OBJEKT

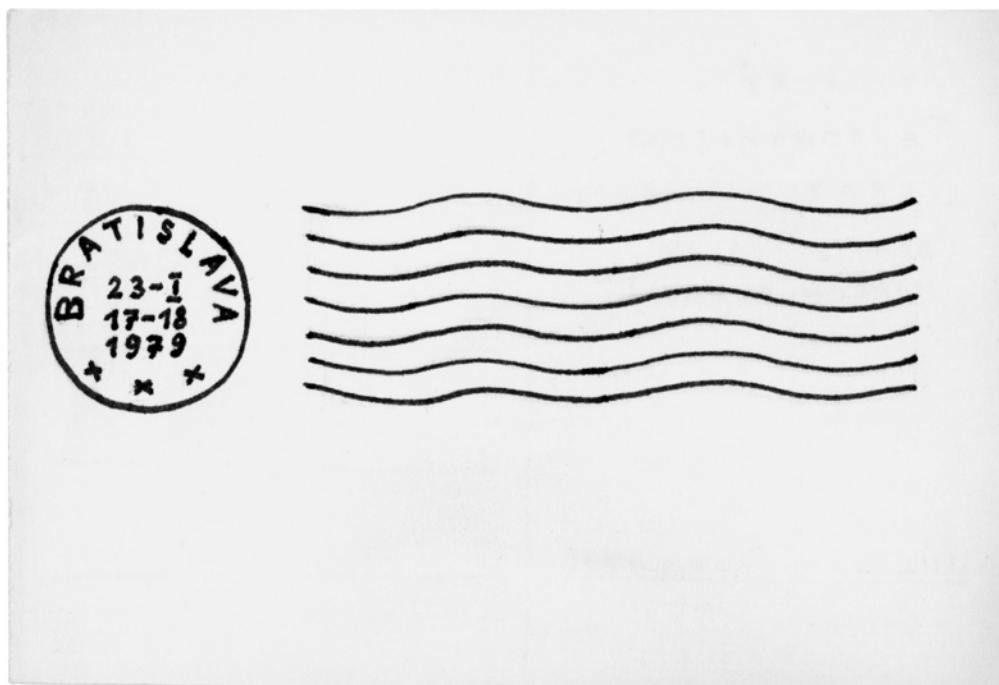
(24) "Universal Philosophical Object"



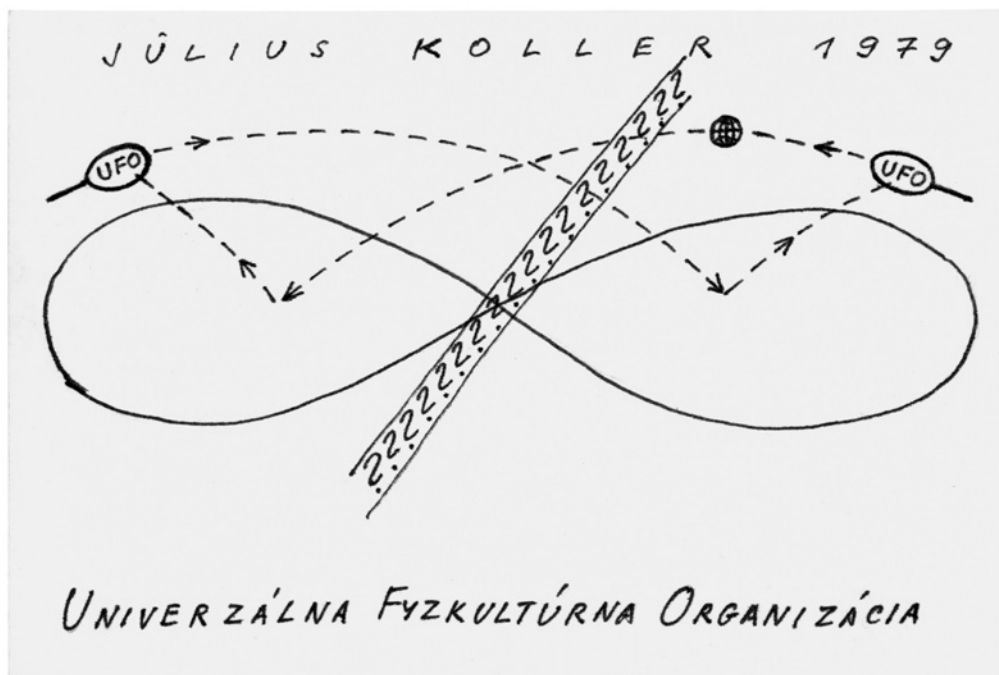
(25) "Universal Philosophical Ornament"



(26) "Universal Philosophical Ornament"



(27)



(28) "Universal Physiocultural Organisation"



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Cover: *U.F.O.-naut J.K. (U.F.O.)*, 1980. Black & white photograph. Vintage print, gelatin silver print, baryta paper. Photo: Milan Sirkovsky. 16 x 13 cm, mounted on cardboard, signed, dated and inscribed. 29.6 x 21 cm. Edition: 3

1. *Umenie Fantasickeho Odhmotnenia*, 1971. Textkarty (kartexty), textobjekty (objektexty). Drawing. Black felt-tip pen on paper, double sided, verso superscribed: "Július Koller 1971." 11.5 x 16 cm. Edition: 3

2. *Umelecky Fyzikálny Obraz [Artistic Physiocultural Image] (U.F.O.)*, 1972. Textkarty (kartexty), textobjekty (objektexty). Drawing. Black felt-tip pen on paper, double sided, verso: "Umelecky Fyzikálny Obraz (U.F.O.) (Projekt) Július Koller 1972 (U.F.O.)" 11.3 x 15.9 cm. Edition: 3

3. *Post Komunikacia*, 1973. Textkarty (kartexty), textobjekty (objektexty). Drawing. Black felt-tip pen on paper, double sided, verso: "Július Koller 1973 (U.F.O.)" 11.2 x 16.1 cm. Edition: 3

4. *Univerzalny Fantasticky Otaznik U.F.O.*, 1973. Textkarty (kartexty), textobjekty (objektexty). Drawing. Black felt-tip pen on paper, double sided, verso: "Július Koller 1973 (U.F.O.)" 11.3 x 15.9 cm. Edition: 3

5. *Univerzálna Futurologická Organizácia, život človeka smrt*, 1973. Textkarty (kartexty), textobjekty (objektexty). Drawing. Black felt-tip pen on paper, double sided, verso: "Július Koller 1973." 11.4 x 16 cm. Edition: 3

6. *Univerzálna Futurologická Organizácia U.F.O. život umenie idea*, 1973. Textkarty (kartexty), textobjekty (objektexty). Drawing. Black felt-tip pen on paper, double sided, verso: "Július Koller 1973." 11.4 x 16 cm. Edition: 3

7. *Univerzalna Fyzikálna Orientacia*, 1973. Textkarty (kartexty), textobjekty (objektexty). Drawing. Black felt-tip pen on paper, double sided, verso: "Július Koller 1973 (U.F.O.)" 11.3 x 16 cm. Edition: 3

8. *Univerzalny Fyzikálny Objav*, 1973. Textkarty (kartexty), textobjekty (objektexty). Drawing. Black felt-tip pen on paper, double sided, verso: "Július Koller 1973 (U.F.O.)" 11.3 x 16 cm. Edition: 3

9. *U.F.O. Mini-koncepcie Maxi-idei*, 1974. Textkarty (kartexty), textobjekty (objektexty). Drawing. Black felt-tip pen on paper, double sided, verso: "Július Koller 1974." 11.1 x 16.2 cm. Edition: 3

10. *Univerzalna Futurologická Otrava Exhala(r)t*, 1974. Textkarty (kartexty), textobjekty (objektexty). Drawing. Black felt-tip pen on paper, double sided, verso: "Július Koller 1974." 11.1 x 15.5 cm. Edition: 3

11. *Univerzalna Fyzikálna Organizacia, Moje Ideje Vase Ideje*, 1974. (right) Textkarty (kartexty), textobjekty (objektexty). Drawing. Black felt-tip pen on paper, double sided, verso: Július Koller 1974 (U.F.O.) 11.9 x 16.1 cm. Edition 3

12. *Atlantis Utajeny Faktografický Odkaz*, 1975. Textkarty (kartexty), textobjekty (objektexty). Drawing. Black felt-tip pen on paper, double sided, verso: "Július Koller 1975 (U.F.O.)" 11.4 x 16 cm. Edition: 3

13. *Post-Idea*, 1975. Textkarty (kartexty), textobjekty (objektexty). Drawing. Black felt-tip pen on paper, double sided, verso: "Július Koller 1975 (U.F.O.)" 11.2 x 16.1 cm. Edition: 3

14. *Post-Komunikacia*, 1975. Textkarty (kartexty), textobjekty (objektexty). Drawing. Black felt-tip pen on paper, double sided, verso: "Július Koller 1975." 11.4 x 16.1 cm. Edition: 3

15. *A(ATLANTIS) B C D E F G H C H I J K (Július Koller)*, 1975. Textkarty (kartexty), textobjekty (objektexty). Drawing. Black felt-tip pen on paper, double sided, verso: "Július Koller 1975 (U.F.O.)" 11 x 16 cm, mounted on cardboard 12.5 x 17.4 cm. Edition: 3

16. *Space (Unidentified Fantastic Originality of Július Koller)*, 1975. Textkarty (kartexty), textobjekty (objektexty). Drawing. Black felt-tip pen on paper, double sided, verso: "Július Koller 1974." 11.1 x 16.4 cm. Edition: 3

17. *Unnoted Factografical Orbis (Atlantis)*, 1975. Textkarty (kartexty), textobjekty (objektexty). Drawing. Black felt-tip pen on paper, double sided, verso: "Corozdelila Proroda, Spojí Idea? [What has been split by nature, will be connected by idea] Utajeny Faktografický Orbis (U.F.O.) Július Koller 1975 (U.F.O.)" 11 x 15.9 cm. Edition: 3

18. *Underground Fantastic Organisation Bermudy Bahamy Portorico*, 1975. Textkarty (kartexty), textobjekty (objektexty). Drawing. Black felt-tip pen on paper, double sided, verso: "Július Koller 1975 (U.F.O.)" 11 x 15.9 cm. Edition: 3

19. *Post-Art*, 1976. Textkarty (kartexty), textobjekty (objektexty). Drawing. Black felt-tip pen on paper, double sided, verso: "Július Koller 1976 (U.F.O.)" 11.4 x 16.1 cm. Edition: 3

20. *Ultra-Fantastická Observacia*, 1977. Textkarty (kartexty), textobjekty (objektexty). Print. Silk-screen print (green) on paper, double sided, verso blue ball-point pen: "Július Koller 1977 (U.F.O.)" 12.2 x 15.5 cm. Edition: 10

21. *Univerzálna Futurologická Organizácia, fantazia život umenie*, 1977. Textkarty (kartexty), textobjekty (objektexty). Drawing. Black felt-tip pen on paper, double sided, verso: "Július Koller 1977 (U.F.O.)" 11.5 x 16.2 cm. Edition: 3

22. *Univerzalny Fantastický Otaznik (U.F.O. Atlantis)*, 1977. Textkarty (kartexty), textobjekty (objektexty). Print. Silk-screen print (green) on paper, double sided, verso blue ball-point pen: "Július Koller 1977 (U.F.O.)" 15.7 x 11.9 cm. Edition: 10

23. *Univerzalne Futurologické Otazniky, ???*, 1978. Textkarty (kartexty), textobjekty (objektexty). Drawing. Black felt-tip pen on paper, double sided, verso: "Július Koller 1978 (U.F.O.)" 11.4 x 16 cm. Edition: 3

24. *Univerzalny Filozofický Objekt, A B C*, 1978. Textkarty (kartexty), textobjekty (objekttexty). Drawing. Black felt-tip pen on paper, double sided, verso: "Július Koller 1978 (U.F.O.)" 11.4 x 16 cm. Edition: 3

25. *Univerzalny Filozofický Ornament, ??? !!!*, 1978. Textkarty (kartexty), textobjekty (objekttexty). Drawing. Black felt-tip pen on paper, double sided, verso: "Július Koller 1978 (U.F.O.)" 11.1 x 16.1 cm. Edition: 3

26. *Univerzalny Filozofický Ornament, Július Koller U.F.O.*, 1978. Textkarty (kartexty), textobjekty (objekttexty). Drawing. Black felt-tip pen on paper, double sided, verso: "Július Koller 1978 (U.F.O.)" 11.1 x 16 cm. Edition: 3

27. *Bratislava 1979 (Poststempel [Post stamp])*, 1979. Textkarty (kartexty), textobjekty (objekttexty). Drawing. Black felt-tip pen on paper, double sided, verso: "Umelecky Faktografický Obraz (Bratislava na Madrom Dunaji) Július Koller 1979." 10.9 x 16.1 cm. Edition: 3

28. *Univerzálna Fyzikálna Organizácia*, 1979. Textkarty (kartexty), textobjekty (objekttexty). Drawing. Black felt-tip pen on paper, double sided, verso: "Július Koller 1979 (U.F.O.)" 11 x 16.5 cm. Edition: 3