

Week 8 – 20th Century Art continued

Happenings

- An artistic event of theatrical nature, usually improvised without framework of a plot
- The word originated with creation and performance in 1959 with Allen Kaprow's "18 Happenings in 6 parts"
- Emphasizes various kinds of performances and experiences, including slide projection, dance, taste and odour sensations
- Usually requires audience participation, and aesthetic effect produced as a result of the combination of events experienced
- Famous Happenings include Claes Oldenburg's "Store" (1961), "Autobodies" (1963) and "Washes" (1965), Robert Rauschenberg's "Map Room II" (1965), Robert Whitman's "The American Moon" (1960) and Allen Kaprow's "Calling" (1965)

Fluxus

- International network of artists, composers, and designers known for blending different artistic media and disciplines in 1960s
- Active in visual arts, music, literature, urban planning, architecture and design
- Also described as intermedia
- Inspired by American avant-garde composer John Cage's piece "4'33" (four minutes, thirty-three seconds) where musicians were instructed not to play their instrument for that whole time – his most famous and controversial composition
- Similar to Dada, it carries an anti-art, anti-commercialism sensibility
- George Maciunas organized the first Fluxus event at the AG Gallery in New York City

The Fluxus artistic philosophy can be expressed through the four key factors:

1. Fluxus is an attitude. It is not a movement or a style.^[3]
 2. Fluxus is intermedia.^[4] Fluxus creators like to see what happens when different media intersect. They use found & everyday objects, sounds, images, and texts to create new combinations of objects, sounds, images, and texts.
 3. Fluxus works are simple. The art is small, the texts are short, and the performances are brief.
 4. Fluxus is fun. Humour has always been an important element in Fluxus.
- Fluxus artists include John Cage, Yoko Ono, George Maciunas, Nam June Paik, Shigeko Kubota, Allen Kaprow, Joseph Bueys

Performance Art

- Multimedia and avant-garde art form originating in the 1970s in which performance is the dominant mode of expression
- Includes elements such as instrumental or electronic music, song, dance, television, film, sculpture, spoken dialogue and storytelling
- Based on early 20th century modernist experiments with mixed media, particularly in Dada performances
- Performance artists generally have more different backgrounds, such as theatre, writing or dance
- Often times emotional and topical, dealing with political and personal matters, and issues such as race, class and feminism
- Performance artists include Laurie Anderson, Nam June Paik, Michael Smith, Vito Acconci, Carolee Schneeman, Martha Wilson, Cindy Sherman, Yoko Ono



Allen Kaprow. *18 Happenings in 6 parts*. (1959)

- Historical event at Reuben Gallery in New York
- The audience were given programs and three stapled cards, which provided instructions for their participation: <The performance is divided into six parts...Each part contains three happenings which occur at once. The beginning and end of each will be signaled by a bell. At the end of the performance two strokes of the bell will be heard...There will be no applause after each set, but you may applaud after the sixth set if you wish.> These instructions also stipulated when audience members were required to change seats and move to the next of the three rooms into which the gallery was divided.
- These rooms were formed by semitransparent plastic sheets painted and collaged with references to Kaprow's earlier work; by panels on which words were roughly painted, and by rows of plastic fruit. (...) In contrast to

Allen Kaprow

- 1927-2006
- Painter and pioneer in establishing concepts for performance art
- Helped develop "Happenings" in 1950s and 1960s in America
- Studied time-based music composition with John Cage, painting with Hans Hofmann, and art history with Meyer Shapiro
- Influenced development of Fluxus, Performance Art and Installation Art

	<p>Cage, whose encouragement of the participation of audience members was motivated by his desire to relinquish authorial control, audience members in many of Kaprow's Happenings became props through which the artist's vision was executed</p>	
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Cindy Sherman (1954 -)

- American photographer
- Takes pictures of herself in various makeup, costumes, wigs under the disguise of different personalities and roles
- Transforms still photography into performance art to explore traditional and pop-cultural myths of femininity
- Gets her ideas from pop culture and mass media



Installation art

- Uses sculptural materials and other media to modify the way we experience a particular space
- Not necessarily confined to gallery spaces and can be staged in everyday public or private spaces
- Materials range from everyday and natural materials to new media such as video, sound, performance, computers and internet; site specific, etc.

Claes Oldenburg (1929 -)

- Swedish-American artist, b. Stockholm. Usually considered part of the pop art movement,
- explores the ironic and humorous aspects of common objects by grossly distorting them in scale, shape, and material.
- He is noted for soft sculptures of stuffed cloth (e.g., *Soft Hamburger*, 1962; Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto) and giant objects (e.g., *Giant Saw, Hard Version*, 1969; Vancouver Art Gall.). His gigantic monument, *Lipstick*, was erected at Yale in 1969.
- Since the 1970s many of his works have been monumental outdoor installations (e.g., colossal binoculars in Los Angeles, an enormous clothespin in Philadelphia, and huge shuttlecocks in Kansas City) and most have been executed in collaboration with his second wife, the Dutch artist and curator Coosje van Bruggen.
- Oldenburg's work is represented in many major public collections, including the Museum of Modern Art and Whitney Museum, both in New York City.



Floor cake, 1962



Floor burger, 1971



Safety pin, 1999



Shuttlecock

Nam June Paik (1932-2006)

- Credited for discovering and inventing video art
- Inspired to use electronic art after meeting composers Karlheinz Stockhausen, John Cage, Joseph Bueys and Wolf Vostell
- www.paikstudios.com



TV Cello, 1967



Techno Buddha



TV Bra for a Living Sculpture, 1969

- American performance artist
- Influenced by Philip Glass and other avant-garde composers in early 1970s
- Created multimedia performance art, combining electronic and instrumental music, song, theatre, film and video projections
- they include *United States I-IV* of the 1980s and *Nerve Bible* (1992). In 1982 she scored a pop music hit with "O Superman," and has since made a number of albums, e.g., *Big Science* (1984), *Strange Angels* (1989), *Bright Red* (1994). She has also made video and film pieces, composed orchestral works and soundtracks, created and performed monologues, and written books. Her first CD-ROM, *The Ugly One with the Jewels*, was released in 1994.
- 2003, became NASA's first and so far only artist-in-residence, which inspired her most recent performance piece, *The End of the Moon*
- www.laurieanderson.com



Yoko Ono (1933 -)

- Artist (performance, conceptual, Fluxus), musician, experimental filmmaker
- Part of the avant-garde art movement Fluxus

- Famous work 'Cut Piece' (1964) as a call for peace
- In a lecture at Wesleyan University, January 1966, Ono explained the inspiration behind her conceptual art: "All of my work in fields other than music have an Event bent ... event, to me, is not an assimilation of all the other arts as Happening seems to be, but an extrication from various sensory perceptions. It is not a get togetherness as most happenings are, but a dealing with oneself. Also it has no script as Happenings do, though it has something that starts it moving- the closest word for it may be a wish or hope ... After unblocking one's mind, by dispensing with visual, auditory and kinetic perception, what will come out of us? Would there be anything? I wonder. And my events are mostly spent in wonderment ... The painting method derives as far back as the time of the Second World War, when we had no food to eat, and my brother and I exchanged menus in the air."



Barbara Kruger (1945 -)

- American conceptual artist

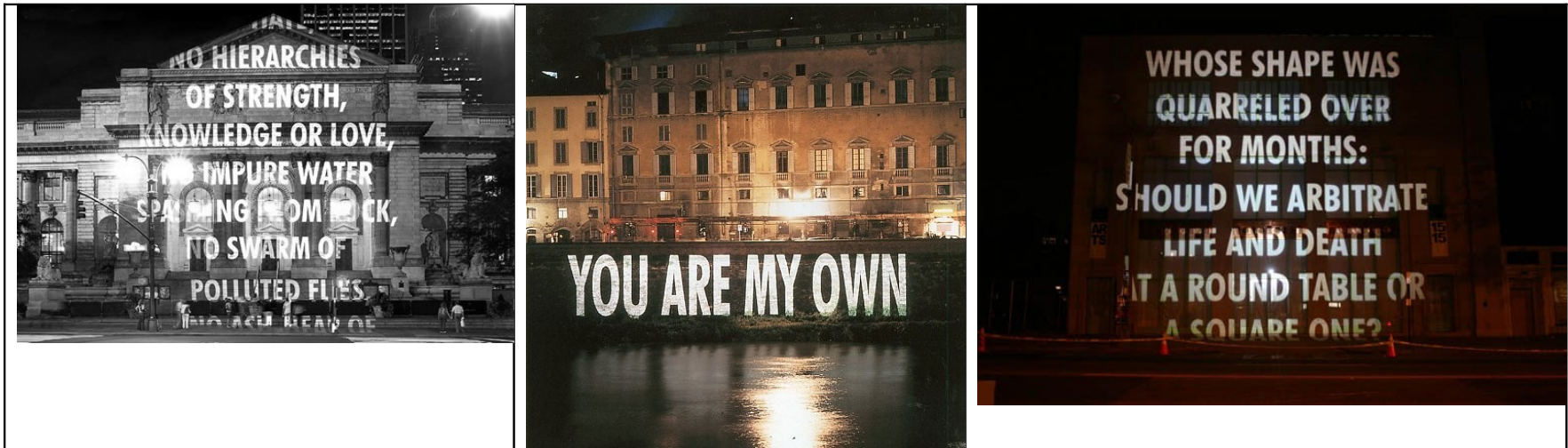
- Her work deals with issues of feminism, social and political issues, especially the kindness and brutalities of social life
- Her graphic work consists of black and white photographs with overlaid captions set in bold font. The phrases deal with criticism of sexism and misogyny and circulation of power within cultures.



Jenny Holzer (1950 -)

- American conceptual artist
- Combines text and images into works of art comprising of short aphorisms or longer declarations

- Influenced by Dada, conceptual art and feminism, her works range from printed signs to LED word sculptures, huge electronic billboard in NYC's Times Square to mounted metal plaques and carved granite benches
- Her artistic slogans have addressed sexism, environmental questions, AIDS and other issues
- Composes collections of one-line statements, public speech in the negative: e.g. "exceptional people deserve special concessions", "Stupid people shouldn't breed", "Faithfulness is a social not biological law", etc
- Famous for "Truisms", words and statements as works of art – "When someone beats you with a flashlight you make the light shine in all directions", "You are a victim of the rules you live by", "Your oldest fears are the worst ones", "A lot of professionals are crackpots", "Protect me from what I want", "monomania is a prerequisite for success", "giving free rein to your ambitions is an honest way to live", "go all out in romance and let the chips fall where they may"



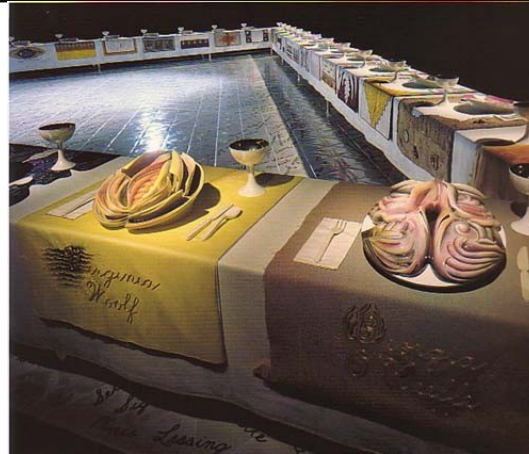
Judy Chicago (1939 -)

- American artist, feminist, founder of the Women's Art Education collective
- Apart from feminist issues, her projects have included childbirth, women's perception of men and the Holocaust

- Her best known work, *The Dinner Party* (1974-79) pays tribute to 39 notable women and their historically significant contributions to civilization (also includes names of 999 lesser known women)



The Dinner Party, 1974-79



JUDY CHICAGO Exhibition, Cal State Fullerton, Oct. 23 - Nov. 25
Premiere 6 - 8 PM, Oct. 23, Faculty Club, Cal State Fullerton
Manager: Jack Sklar/Baldwin, 2022, 3, Grand Highway, Corona Del Mar, CA 92625

<http://www.improveverywhere.com> "We Cause Scenes"



Grand Central Station, NYC, 2006



Trafalgar Square, London, Feb 16th 2007





Manhattan Home Depot, 2006



No pants, San Francisco



No pants, nyc



No pants, nyc

