

“THE LUNATICS ARE ON THE LOOSE...”

NIKOLAJ
KUNSTHAL

November 3 - November 25 2012

50 years ago, Nikolaj, Copenhagen Contemporary Art Center, provided the setting for some of the very first Fluxus concerts. To celebrate this occasion, a three-week Fluxus mini festival will take place, built around an interactive archive of more than 480 performances.

The Lunatics Are on the Loose... presents 480 performances by 120 different artists, taking place at European Fluxus concerts 1962-1977. The archive features a multitude of sources from scores and photos to sound recordings and film clips to contemporary eyewitness reports.

At the Nikolaj-exhibition, guests enter an interactive forest of Fluxus-performances. Each performance is presented on a separate card, hanging in a string from the ceiling. With this as the point of entry, one can embark on a journey in time and place and seek out artists grouped according to where each particular event took place during the particular year. Each card offers additional information about artists, score (if known) photos and/or description (if known) along with a digital code. Using an iPad to scan the code, one can move deeper down into the archive, getting more information on the performance in question and learn what else took place at the concert as well as more about the artist(s).

Mini festival

Apart from the interactive archive, there will be Fluxus film screenings, the opportunity to listen to avant-garde composed music of the 1960s and earlier, as well as a curator talk on Fluxus and its importance for today's contemporary art. Finally, a programme is presented as part of a collaborative project on Fluxus concerts and performances with SNYK, The Secretariat for Contemporary Music, and The Museum of Contemporary Art in Roskilde.

November 22 8 pm: The Danish National Girls Choir and eight students from The Royal Danish Academy of Music present rarely heard and seen Fluxus pieces by Eric Andersen, George Brecht, Dick Higgins, Alison Knowles, Larry Miller, Mieko Shiomi, Robert Watts and La Monte Young.

November 24 8 pm: Composer Reinhold Friedl from Berlin has, strongly inspired by Fluxus, created a symphonic piece for discarded instruments. The orchestra has been formed for this event by both Danish and German professional musicians and amateurs.

The exhibition has been curated by German Fluxus scholar and curator Petra Stegmann. The exhibition design has been developed in co-operation with the Fachhochschule für Design in Potsdam.

The international network Fluxus

Fluxus was one of the earliest and most consistent of the cross-aesthetic movements of the 1960s. Music and the way it was based on scores were central points of departure for Fluxus; but equally high numbers of visual artists and writers took part. The artists did not consider themselves as specialists within one discipline in particular, working instead in a cross-disciplinary manner. Fluxus artists strove to find alternatives to object-based art, and a large number therefore worked with performances or events. They wanted to redefine the interrelationship of work and spectator/listener, and many Fluxus projects require audience participation in order to be fully realised.

For further information, press photos or interviews, please contact Head of PR, Ms Anne Riber on m: pr@nikolajkunsthall.dk or t: (+45) 33 18 17 84.