



Specials > FLUXRADIO

The *Specials* programs focus on projects by artists and curators who have some kind of connection to the Museum's programming and the MACBA Collection. To complement the exhibition "The Anarchy of Silence. John Cage and Experimental Art", this programme documents the Fluxus movement, an international network of artists which emerged in New York in the early 1960s.

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Curated by Joe Gilmore

Written and edited by Joe Gilmore and Rhiannon Silver

Joe Gilmore is a multidisciplinary artist and graphic designer based in Leeds (UK). His music has been published internationally on various music labels including 12k and Line, Fällt, Cut, Alku, Entr'acte and Leonardo Music Journal. <http://joe.qubik.com>

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FLUXRADIO

FluxRadio explores some of the concepts and ideas behind the music and performance practice of Fluxus. Featuring sound pieces by George Maciunas, La Monte Young, Joseph Beuys, Nam June Paik, George Brecht, Yoko Ono and others, the programme charts the emergence of Fluxus through 60s avant-garde New York, examining the relationship to John Cage, Zen Buddhism and European avant-garde music.

01. Summary

The Fluxus movement was an international network of artists which emerged in New York in the early 1960s. Artists who were at some time involved include: Yoko Ono, La Monte Young, George Brecht, Nam June Paik, Dick Higgins, Ray Johnson and Jackson Mac Low. Many Fluxus artists met through the various experiments which were happening in musical education in 1950s America – most notable amongst these for the emergence of Fluxus, was John Cage's class in musical composition at the New School of Social Research in New York. The experimental methodology of the class became central to the nature of Fluxus work, especially the influence of Zen Buddhist philosophy and the use of chance operations in the composition of music, poetry and performance. Paradoxically anti-art, the art of Fluxus sought to undermine bourgeois traditions in the arts, particularly those of western classical music. Embracing its iconography – conductors, orchestras, musical scores and recitals – Fluxus performers deconstructed widely accepted notions of music and performance through often soundless actions and the destruction of instruments. Absurdity and humour were vital to Fluxus. George Maciunas, the main organiser and disseminator of Fluxus, often described it as nothing more than a good gag.

02. Playlist

Music:

- Nam June Paik, "Homage A John Cage" (excerpt), (from *Works 1958-1979*, Sub Rosa, CD)
- Dick Higgins, "Danger Music Number Seventeen" (from Various, *FluxTellus*, Tellus, Cassette)
- Nam June Paik, "Prepared Piano for Merce Cunningham" (excerpt) (from *Works 1958-1979*, CD)
- John Cage, "Cartridge Music" (excerpt) (from *Music for Merce Cunningham*, Mode Records, CD)
- John Cage, "Music for Amplified Toy Pianos" (from *John Cage*, Cramps Records, CD)
- George Brecht, "Drip Music" (excerpt) (from Ben Patterson, *Drip Music/370 Flies*, Alga Marghen, CD)
- Jackson Mac Low/Anne Tardos, "First Four-Language Word Event" (excerpt) (from Various, *A Chance Operation*, KOCH International, CD)
- Richard Maxfield, "Pastoral Symphony" (excerpt) (from *Fluxus Anthology 30th Anniversary 1962-1992*, Slowsan, LP)
- La Monte Young, "Drift Study '31169 C. 12:17:33-12:24:33 PM NYC'" (excerpt) (from Various, *OHM+: The Early Gurus Of Electronic Music*, Ellipsis Arts, CD)
- Yoko Ono, "Cough Piece" (excerpt) (from <http://www.ubu.com/sound/ono.html>)
- Wolf Vostell, "Le Cri" (excerpt) (from *Fluxus Anthology 30th Anniversary 1962-1992*, Slowsan, LP)
- Nam June Paik, "Prepared Piano For Merce Cunningham" (excerpt) (from *Works 1958-1979*, Sub Rosa, CD)
- John Cage, "Variations II" (excerpt) (from David Tudor, *Music For Piano*, Edition RZ)
- George Maciunas, "Piano Piece #13 (Carpenter's Piece) For Nam June Paik". Performed by Sonic Youth



[George Brecht: *Drip Music (Drip Event)*]

Mieko Shiomi, "A Celestial Tune By 108 Glass Marbles" (from *Fluxus Anthology 30th Anniversary 1962-1992*, Slowscan, LP)
 Yasunao Tone, "Anagram for Strings" (excerpt) (from Various, *FluxTellus*, Tellus, Cassette)
 Yoko Ono, "Toilette Piece" (from *Fluxus Anthology, Zona Archives*, LP)
 Robert Watts & Larry Miller, "Laff Trace" (from Various, *FluxTellus*, Tellus, Cassette)
 Ay-O, "Ay-O-Add Collection for George Maciunas from Ay-O" (excerpt) (from *Fluxus Anthology Volume 1*, Slowscan, LP)
 Dick Higgins, "Omnia Gallia" (from *Fluxus Anthology 30th Anniversary 1962-1992*, Slowscan, LP)
 Joe Jones, "Flux Music Box interpreted by Taketo Shimada" (from *Fluxsweet*, Rossbin, DVD)
 Robert Filliou, "Imitating the Sound of the Birds" (from *Fluxus Anthology, Zona Archives*, LP)
 Alison Knowles, "Nivea Cream Piece for Emmett Williams" (excerpt) (from Various, *FluxTellus*, Tellus, Cassette)
 George Brecht, "Comb Music" (Comb Event) (from Various, *FluxTellus*, Tellus, Cassette)
 Juan Hidalgo, "Tamarin" (excerpt) (from *Fluxus Anthology, Zona Archives*, LP)
 George Brecht, "Entrance-Exit Music". Realised by 3.14... (unpublished CD-R)
 Joseph Beuys and Nam June Paik, "In Memoriam George Maciunas" (excerpt) (Edition Block, LP)

Interviews:

George Maciunas Interview KRAB Radio, September 1977 (excerpt) (<http://www.fluxus.org/FLUXLIST/maciunas/>)
 John Cage Interview (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pcHnL7aS64Y>)
 John Cage Reading an Excerpt from *Silence* (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M7MPvH06Zj0>)



[Philip Corner: *Piano Activities, Weisbaden, 1962*]

03. Bibliography

A Chance Operation, KOCH International, CD (liner notes), New York, 1993
 La Monte Young and Jackson Mac Low, *An Anthology of Chance Operations*, Self-published, New York, 1963
 Geoffrey Hendricks, *Critical Mass: Happenings, Fluxus, Performance, Intermedia and Rutgers University, 1958-1972*, Rutgers University Press, New York, 2003
Fluxus Anthology, Zona Archives, LP (liner notes), Florence, 1989
 Jon Hendricks and Robert Pincus-Witten, *Fluxus Codex*, Harry N. Abrams, Inc., Detroit, 1988
 Hannah Higgins, *Fluxus Experience*, University of California Press, Berkeley, 2002
 George Brecht, Julia Robinson and Alfred M. Fischer, *George Brecht: Events – A Heterospective*, Verlag der Buchhandlung Walther König, Cologne, 2005
Silence: Lectures and Writings by John Cage, Wesleyan U.P., U.S., Middletown, 1973
 Thomas Kellein, *The Dream of Fluxus: George Maciunas: An Artist's Biography*, Hansjörg Mayer, London, 2007
The Fluxus Performance Workbook, ed. Ken Friedman, Owen Smith and Lauren Sawchyn, Performance Research, London, 2002
 Ken Friedman, *The Fluxus Reader*, John Wiley & Sons, Chichester, 1998
 David Revill, *The Roaring Silence: John Cage: A Life*, Arcade Publishing, New York, 1993

04. Related links

http://www.ubu.com/sound/fluxus_box.html
<http://www.ubu.com/sound/fluxus.html>
http://www.ubu.com/sound/flux_tellus.html
<http://www.ubu.com/film/fluxfilm.html>



[George Maciunas: *Piano Piece #13 For Nam June Paik*]

<http://www.ubu.com/historical/young/AnAnthologyOfChanceOperations.pdf>
<http://www.fluxus.org/FLUXLIST/maciunas/>

05. Credits

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05. Licence

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[George Maciunas: *Self Portrait*]