

# PERFORMANCE IN THE 1970s: EXPERIENCING THE EVERYDAY

## INSTRUCTIONS:

collect all the sheets of paper  
put them in this envelope  
write an address in the box  
affix a stamp  
drop in a mailbox

Vineland Place  
Minneapolis, MN  
55403

# PERFORMANCE IN THE 1970s: EXPERIENCING THE EVERYDAY

**"ART SHOULD NOT BE DIFFERENT THAN LIFE, BUT AN ACTION WITHIN LIFE."**

— JOHN CAGE

In the 1970s, as boundaries between artistic disciplines blurred and artists sought alternative modes of expression and presentation, performance emerged as one of the dominant art forms. Performance suddenly was being presented in art museums and galleries as well as on the traditional proscenium stage. The practitioners included not only those trained as actors, dancers, and musicians, but a new breed of performer: the visual artist.

The term "performance art," coined in the 1970s, describes a range of activities that emerged as visual artists added action to their static works. Deriving from 1960s Conceptual Art (in which the idea or concept for a work was more important than the execution of a material object), these works were ephemeral, time-based, and process-oriented, and brought artists into more direct contact with the spectator. Performance art encompassed many forms, including Body Art, Fluxus, feminist art, mail art, and video art.

Since 1970 the Walker Art Center Performing Arts Department has presented a wide array of experimental dance and theater, avant-garde music, and multidisciplinary performance art. This exhibition includes objects from the permanent collection and videotapes by visual artists involved in performance art, as well as archival documentation of work by multidisciplinary performing artists. Whatever the specific genre, performance of the 1970s celebrates and scrutinizes both the mundane and the spectacular moments of everyday experience.

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Support for the Andersen Window Gallery is provided by Andersen Corporation, Bayport, Minnesota. Special thanks to Hammel Green and Abrahamson, Inc., Architects and Engineers. Cello courtesy MacPhail Center for the Arts, Minneapolis.

*Performance in the 1970s: Experiencing the Everyday* is part of the Walker Art Center's "New Definitions/New Audiences" initiative. This museum-wide project to engage visitors in a reexamination of 20th-century art is made possible by the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund.

## EXHIBITION CHECKLIST

- Vito Acconci American, b. 1940  
*Trademarks* 1970  
lithograph on paper  
Gift of the Dayton Hudson Corporation,  
Minneapolis, 1978
- George Brecht American, b. 1926  
*Water Yam* 1972  
plastic, paper  
Walker Special Purchase Fund, 1989
- Gilbert & George (G. Proesch, British,  
b. Italy, 1943; G. Passmore, British, b. 1942)  
*Selections from the Red Sculpture Album* 1973  
Photographs from a hardbound book  
Art Center Acquisition Fund, 1977
- Lynn Hershman American, b. 1941  
*Roberta Construction Chart* 1973/1994  
C-print on paper  
Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Lester, 1994
- Lynn Hershman American, b. 1941  
*Selections from Roberta* 1972–1979/1994  
mixed media  
Justin Smith Purchase Fund, 1994
- Dick Higgins American, b. 1938  
*Symphony No. 32 "The Well-Shot One"* 1997  
offset lithograph, bullet holes, ink on paper  
Courtesy the artist
- Milan Knizak Czech, b. 1940  
*Killed Book/Shot* 1972  
offset lithograph on paper, wood, plexiglass  
Walker Special Purchase Fund, 1989
- George Maciunas American, 1931–1978  
*Stomach Anatomy Apron* 1967/1973  
screenprint on vinyl, grommets  
Acquired with Walker Art Center library funds;  
transferred to Walker Art Center permanent  
collection, 1990
- Larry Miller American, b. 1944  
*Orifice Flux Plugs* 1974  
mixed media, plastic, paper  
Acquired with Walker Art Center Library funds;  
transfer to the permanent collection, 1990
- Bruce Nauman American, b. 1941  
*Selection from Studies for Holograms (a–e)* 1970  
screenprints on paper; (a, b, c, e)  
Clinton and Della Walker Acquisition Fund, 1989
- Yoko Ono American, b. 1933  
*Invitation to Participate in  
a Water Event* 1971  
offset lithograph on paper  
Walker Special Purchase Fund, 1989
- Nam June Paik American, b. 1932  
*TV Bra for Living Sculpture* 1969  
video tubes, televisions, rheostat, foot switches,  
plexiglass, vinyl, cable, wire  
T. B. Walker Acquisition Fund, 1991
- Mieko (Chieko) Shiomi Japanese, b. 1938  
*Spatial Poem No. 5/open event* 1972  
offset lithograph on paper  
Walker Special Purchase Fund, 1989