

Fluxus and Instruction-based art

Fluxus embraces a sense of humor and the belief that anyone can be an artist

Fluxus is a type of art which is difficult to define because of its global, eclectic, infinitely creative nature. In 1963, Fluxus artist George Maciunas stated “In Fluxus...individuals with something unnameable in common have simply naturally coalesced to publish and perform their work.” The epicenters for Fluxus art centered around New York City, Germany, and Japan.

Maciunas later wrote the *Fluxus Manifesto*, which outlines the aims and purposes of Fluxus art....

- To PURGE the world of bourgeois sickness
- To promote a REVOLUTIONARY FLOOD AND TIDE IN ART
- To promote LIVING ART...grasped by ALL peoples

Fluxus pieces are often performance art--art that is performed to an audience or onlookers and draws from elements of music, dance, poetry, and theater. Happenings and Event scripts are types of performance art. Happenings are works of art that embrace spontaneity and invite audience participation. An Event script is a short set of instructions which is read aloud and followed by the audience. Performance art takes the historically passive role of viewer and changes it into an active and intrinsic element of the artwork.

Event scripts and happenings evolved into instruction-based art. In addition to UMOCA's art instruction series, *Art Class*, Independent Curators International has published a selection of arts intructions called *do it (home)*, which is available in Spanish and English.

Find and download *do it (home)* here: curatorsintl.org/special-projects/do-it

Find and join UMOCA's *Art Class* here: utahmoca.org/art-class/

Both of these resources celebrate humanity's limitless imagination. They offer instructional inspiration as well as permission to respond in any way the artist wishes. They prove that anyone can be an artist.

Each was created in response to the COVID-19 crisis and quarantines. They are designed to facilitate vibrant virtual learning, at-home creation, and visual arts literacy.

Remember: YOU are an artist! Now go and create!