

PRESS RELEASE
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VIVID

FLUX-FEST

25 June to 13 July 2008

A celebration of Fluxus

VIVID, in partnership with 7 Inch Cinema, Capsule, SharedTable, a.a.s. and Ensemble Interakt, present three weeks of activity to celebrate the spirit of Fluxus. An array of Fluxus inspired activity will be presented across the city of Birmingham including food, games, rare film and performance.



Image: Ergo Phizmiz. Image courtesy of the artist.

Developed in the early 60s as an antithesis to 'high-art' Fluxus was playful, genial and often absurd. Frequently described as an attitude or spirit rather than an art movement, Fluxus evolved in Europe and the US and is considered the most radical and experimental art movement of the 1960s. Fluxus is a collective movement with multiple origins, and from it we can arguably trace the origins of multi-media, conceptual performance, and installation art.

Fluxus was, and still is, an international artists' collective with a strong sense of community. Social occasions such as dumpling parties, dinners, banquets and boat trips reflect the convivial ideologies and community ethos of the Fluxus community.

On 29 June 1971 George Maciunas hosted a Dumpling Party for a group of Fluxus artists and associates in the original 'Fluxhouse' (80 Wooster Street, New York). Using this social gathering as a starting point FLUX-FEST will launch with its own Dumpling Party on **Wednesday 25 June** hosted by artist Feng-Ru Lee. Visitors will be invited to eat dumplings whilst watching the first presentation in the UK of the performance Car Bibbe by Sean Carillo and (Al Hansen's daughter) Bibbe Hansen - originally performed by Al Hansen in 1958/9. (admission FREE)

Also at VIVID during **25 June to 13 July** will be a rich screening programme of films providing the audience with a rare opportunity to view original Fluxfilms by Nam June Paik, Yoko Ono, Joe Jones, Paul Sharits, Alison Knowles and George Maciunas; Interviews and documentaries of Fluxus activity from 60s through to 90s by Larry Miller, Takahiko Iimura and Jonas Mekas will also be shown.

Mecanologie (1997) by Pierre Bastien will be installed at VIVID and comprises a robotic installation of everyday objects - a teapot, a comb, some toothbrushes – that together form an ensemble of sounds. Bastien will also perform at Capsule's Supersonic Festival on Sunday 13 July.

Typographically charged works commissioned specifically for FLUX-FEST by Birmingham based designer James Langdon will include a programme of activity where the audience is invited to spin an arrow to select an event to attend. Langdon's pieces will draw on the flamboyant styles of Fluxus print and the importance of graphic design to Fluxus' founder George Maciunas.

The Re:Flux Fluxconcert, curated by a.a.s. and Ensemble Interakt, on **Friday 27 June**, is a one day audio performance event exploring collaborative and participatory working as developed by Fluxus. Contributing artists include Ana Benlloch, Cormac Faulkner, Jonathan Green, Phillip Henderson, Calum F. Kerr, Sian Macfarlane, Niki Russell, Stuart Tait, Keir Williams and Dan Williamson. (tickets £3/ £2 concession. Advance booking essential)

On **Thursday 3 July**, 7 Inch Cinema and associates will greet the spirit of Fluxus with Flummoxed, including silent raving, limited edition flickbooks, performance, bespoke film/music presentations by Film Ficciones and Nicholas Bullen and a three-turntable improvisation performed without headphones by audio-collagist Ergo Phizmiz using assorted vinyl. (tickets £4 on the door)

Journey with Fluxus on **Saturday 5 July** along Birmingham's canal systems whilst playing Fluxus-style games with artists Melissa Bliss and Andy Abbott. Also aboard this family friendly outing Ergo Phizmiz will stage a unique participatory performance in a new live art work using wordplay and sound. (tickets £5/ £3 concession. Advance booking essential)

SharedTable invite you to dine with them on **Wednesday 9 July**. FluxFeast is an attempt to undermine the monumentality of art through the use of food. For an opportunity to win tickets to FluxFeast send a recipe to challenge the senses! The winning recipe will be created and served at FluxFeast. Submissions to fluxfeast@sensecity.co.uk. (tickets £25. Advance booking essential)

VIVID reserves the right to change final programme details.

Visitor Information

For **further details, times** and **ticket prices** please visit www.vivid.org.uk or call: **0121 766 7876** / email: info@vivid.org.uk

Contact

VIVID, 140 Heath Mill Lane Birmingham B9 4AR

Trains: Birmingham New St and Birmingham Moor St

Buses: 4,5,6,15,17,37,56,57,58,60,97

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Notes to editor:

1. FLUX-FEST was originated by VIVID in partnership with 7 Inch Cinema, 7 Inch Cinema, Capsule, SharedTable, a.a.s. and Ensemble Interakt .
2. For further information and images please contact Laura Coult on +44 (0) 121 766 7876 or email laura@vivid.org.uk
3. VIVID is a non-profit organisation and is supported by Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council. The VIVID project space in Birmingham's Eastside district has been active in presenting a dynamic programme of exhibitions and events since April 2005 and was developed with support from Advantage West Midlands.
4. FLUX-FEST is made possible with the support of 7 Inch Cinema, Capsule, SharedTable, a.a.s., Ensemble Interakt and Arts Council England.
5. VIVID is a leading media arts agency committed to the development of media arts practice through research, production and commissioning programmes. Established in 1992, VIVID produces a wide range of exhibitions, events, publications and touring initiatives through a dedicated project space which combines production, exhibition and technical resources. Alongside the public programme, VIVID provides innovative research and development opportunities for emerging artists in addition to commissioning new work from international artists. VIVID's curatorial policy is to increase audience access to both emergent talent and work of international significance. The exhibition programme reflects the development of media arts through a juxtaposition of historical and contemporary practice, and provides talks, events and screenings throughout the year.
6. Since 2002 VIVID projects have been presented at ICA, London; Danielle Arnaud and the Museum of Garden History [London], Ikon, mac and IPS [Birmingham], Le lieu unique [Nantes, France], IBID Projects, [Lithuania,] and other venues nationally and internationally. VIVID publications include Zoo- Richard Billingham (2007); Vasulka Lab: Live Archive (2006). Co-publications include "Foundation & Empire" by Heather and Ivan Morison (2004) and 'hothaus series: perspectives and paradigms in media arts', (2005), both in association with University of Central England and Article Press.



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