



Rauschenberg Gallery Exhibition Opens August 25

There will be an opening of FluZusic/**FLUXUS MUSIC** at the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery at Florida SouthWestern State College with a public reception on Friday, August 25 from 6 to 8 p.m. An interactive and immersive installation with newly commissioned works by Yoko Ono, Geoffrey Hendricks, Alison Knowles and Philip Corner (who also provided the exhibition's title) will be included. The exhibition provides both an in-depth historical examination into this seminal art movement and a hands-on/participatory and sonic experience for visitors.

Most heavily inspired by the ideas of John Cage, Fluxus art often relied on chance to shape the outcome and actively involved the viewer. Fluxus compositions or scores for performances and events involved simple actions, ideas and objects from everyday life. Incorporating concrete poetry, visual art and writing, Fluxus performances were the embodiment of Dick Higgins' idea of "intermedia" – a dialogue between two or more media to create a third, entirely new art form. Yet, as many of the Fluxus artists had formal training in music, musical composition and performance (frequently involving the alteration, misuse or abuse of traditional instruments), this activity became a central focus. Beginning with a series of festivals featuring concerts of experimental music and other avant-garde performance, Fluxus artists

reacted against the commodification of art, its commercialization in the gallery system, and its static presentation in museums. While Rauschenberg famously stated his interest in working "in the gap between art and life," the primary goal of most Fluxus artists was to destroy any boundary between the two. Founder George Maciunas stated that Fluxus was "anti-art," to underscore the revolutionary mode of thinking about the practice and process of art while using humor to mock the elitist world of "high art" and to bring art to the widest possible audience.

A preview question-and-answer session and exhibition walk-through with visiting artist and Fluxus pioneer Alison Knowles is scheduled the morning of Friday, August 25 at 11 a.m. An active participant in New York City's downtown art scene and close collaborator of both John Cage and Marcel Duchamp, Knowles (like her fellow Fluxus colleagues) is noted for event scores and performances that rework the everyday into art including visual, aural, tactile and often participatory elements. Involved in sound since the late '60s, Knowles designed and co-edited John Cage's *Notations*, a book of music manuscripts published by the Something Else Press. Her 8-by-12 foot *Bean Garden* (1975/2017), newly-constructed for FluZusic/Fluxus Music, invites Bob Rauschenberg Gallery visitors the unique opportunity to walk through a platform of nearly two tons of amplified garbanzo beans – as their sounds resonate with each step.

The Bob Rauschenberg Gallery is located on the Florida SouthWestern Fort Myers campus at 8099 College Parkway.✪