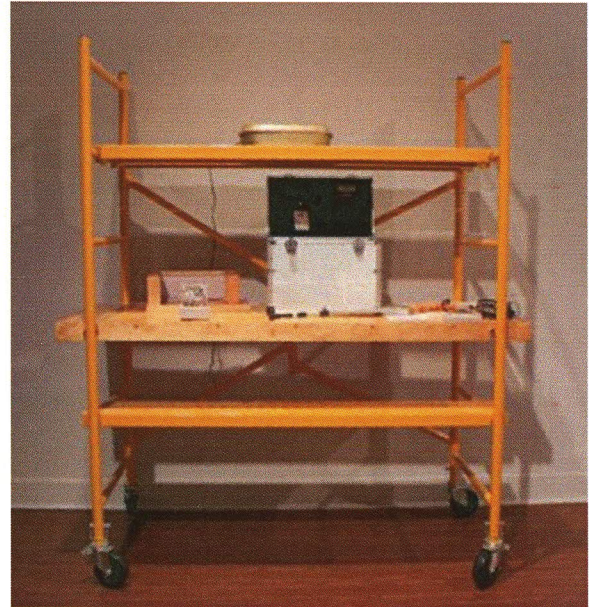


Ben Patterson to discuss Fluxus movement in Edison State College lecture and performance on June 24

By TOM HALL
June 17, 2014

Presented in conjunction with *ELEVEN: The John Erickson Museum of Art (JEMA) 10-Year Retrospective* (May 9 – July 25, 2014) and represented in the exhibition at the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery at Edison State College (soon to be Florida SouthWestern State College) by his two solo projects, *Paper Piece* (1960/2014) and *Bollywood Love: Object of Desire* (2010), the influential and affable artist Ben Patterson will discuss the origin and history of the Fluxus movement, his current work, and his ongoing involvement with Sean Miller and the John Erickson Museum of Art in a special lecture and performance at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, June 24.



Patterson is a founding member of Fluxus, the international collective of artists known for infusing avant-garde practices with anarchic spirit and humor. As such, he helped revolutionize the artistic landscape at the advent of the 1960s and was on the forefront of ushering in a new and often controversial era of experimental music and visual art. Now in his eighties and residing in Germany, Mr. Patterson has been the recent subject of a major traveling retrospective organized by the Contemporary Art Museum/Houston, and has had the distinction of having his work



acquired by numerous institutions, including the permanent collections of the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis and the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

A classically-trained musician and composer whose most significant contribution to Fluxus was exploring the connection between action and music, Ben Patterson has spent more than five decades creating compositions for both the body in action (“action as composition”) and the unconventional playing of his instrument, the contra bass, through ordinary gestures.

After a brief encounter with John Cage in 1960, Patterson became a fixture in the experimental music scene in Germany, where he co-organized and performed at the first International Festival of New Music with George Maciunas at the Staatsmuseum in Wiesbaden in 1961, which was later recognized as the first official Fluxus event.

In the tradition of Marcel Duchamp, John Cage and Bob Rauschenberg, with tongue-in-cheek, often provocative humor, Ben Patterson’s work is a celebration of “ordinary life.” Employed for some years as a reference librarian, an arts administrator and as an entrepreneur with his own music management company, Patterson took a hiatus and withdrew from his career as an artist for nearly two decades.

Reemerging in the 1980’s and returning to Europe to live, Ben Patterson has spent the last twenty-five years prolifically creating visual art, scores and performing his work.

Chronicling a decade of highly innovative art projects and often unconventional installations by invited artists, *ELEVEN: The John Erickson Museum of Art (JEMA) 10-Year Retrospective* will mark its final day at the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery (and elucidate the enigmatic/numeric exhibition title) by closing to the public on JEMA’s ELEVENth anniversary on July 25, 2014. For more information, please visit <http://www.RauschenbergGallery.com> or telephone 239-489-9313. ■

