



Fluxus Heidelberg Center

Founded by Litsa Spathi and Ruud Janssen

© FHC March 2005



The **Fluxus Heidelberg Center** site is the place where all Fluxus activities of the artist-duo **Fluxus Heidelberg** (Litsa Spathi and Ruud Janssen) are documented. It includes interviews with Fluxus-artists, photos of performances, historic facts, full documentation of all performances by Fluxus Heidelberg, Fluxus Poetry by Litsa Spathi, an overview of all publications by the Center and by other Fluxus related artists. You will find information about how to contact them, links to other sites that are interesting for you and a sitemap.

The Center itself was founded in July 2003 and is building up a large collection of Fluxus material. Both artists were active in the Fluxus-world for years and are in contact with founders and active players of this movement. Their Fluxus-activities are a continuation of the early Fluxus-movement. They use the modern techniques in their performances and document their activities in digital and printed form. A large set of digital photos and digital Fluxus Poetry is published on this site. The modern life with its hectic situations form the playground for their performances. Just click on the changing logo to enter this site.

© **March 2005 by the Fluxus Heidelberg Center.**

WHAT IS PERFORMANCE ART?

(c) October 2003 by *Fluxus Heidelberg*.

Defining Performance Art

In the book **Performance Art: From Futurism to the Present** (ISBN 0-500-20214-1 issue 1999), the Author RoseLee Goldenberg writes to explain what **Performance Art** is in her eyes:

"Performance became accepted as a medium of artistic expression in its own right in the 1970s. At that time, conceptual art - which insisted on an art of ideas over product, and on an art that could not be bought and sold - was in its heydays and performance was often a demonstration, or an execution, of those ideas. Performance thus became the most tangible art form of the period."

Fluxus and Performance are highly connected. The more radical practitioners in Fluxus point out that what they do is **Performance Art** and not **Performance**. The difference is that in performance art the whole concept is thought out in advance, documented in advance, if needed invitations for the event are sent out, and only then it is performed. After the Performance the results are documented as well (texts, photos, videos, film). In Performance someone else has thought out a concept (like e.g. a theatre play), and the performers merely interpret the concept.

Performance is a re-presentation as Performance Art is the creating of something new.

Performance Art by Fluxus Heidelberg

Fluxus Heidelberg consist of two persons: Litsa Spathi and Ruud Janssen. Since 1993 they are communicating with each other. Only in July 1996 they met for the first time. In July 2003 the two decide to form **Fluxus Heidelberg** in which they will do Performance Art. They also found the **Fluxus Heidelberg Center** in which all aspects of their work in Fluxus and research will be documented. The Center is the basis for this site, it contains all books and documents connected to Fluxus that both artists have gathered over the years. It also is the center that publishes books and texts (electronically and hard-copies) and produces object books, artefacts, etc.



On the site of Fluxus Heidelberg Center there is a special place where most performances by Fluxus Heidelberg are documented (see www.fluxusheidelberg.org/performances.html). The performances the artist-duo does is typical for the time they live in. They are the new generation of Fluxus Artists that uses and integrates the new electronic possibilities. The computer and the digital camera are in lots of their performances. Unlike the old-generation of Fluxus Artists, the results of performances are documented online immediately. Also Poetry becomes [Fluxus Poetry](#) because it is the result of a performance behind the computer (see www.fluxusheidelberg.org/pfinfo.html).

To quote the late **Dick Higgins**: *"Fluxus has a life on it's own"*

LIST OF PERFORMANCES:

PERFORMANCES in 2003:

1. **Heidelberg**, July 2003. Opening performance by Litsa Spathi and Ruud Janssen. On occasion of the start of Fluxus Heidelberg Center the Slide-Show "Variations of the Logo" was used for a first performance in a small circle of friends.
2. **Stuttgart**, August 2003. Stamping Performance at the [Greek Consulate in Stuttgart](#).
3. **Heidelberg**, August 2003. [Performance at the Main Railway Station](#) in the city [Heidelberg](#).
4. **Heidelberg**, August 2003. Performance ["Drinking a cappuccino"](#) on the 5th floor of ["Horten/Kaufhof"](#) in the Center of Heidelberg. On this page is also the 2nd version of the performance.
5. **Heidelberg**, August 2003. Performance ["Ordering a rubber stamp"](#) in the center of Heidelberg.
6. **Heidelberg**, August 2003. Performance ["Wear a wig"](#) in the main street of Heidelberg.
7. **Heidelberg**, August 2003. Performance ["Eat a lolly"](#) - private performance.
8. **Heidelberg**, September 2003. Performance in the Center of Heidelberg with a ["Journalist"](#) during an interview about Fluxus and performances.
9. **Heidelberg**, September 2003. Performance in the Center of Heidelberg to promote the activities of Fluxus Heidelberg. Titel of performance: ["Say Cheese"](#).
10. **Several Locations**, September - December 2003. Performance ["Flyer - 4 variations"](#) - distributing Fluxus Heidelberg Center Flyers.
11. **Heidelberg**, September 2003. Performance at the Main Postal Office in Heidelberg: [Mail to Fluxus-Artists](#).
12. **Minden**, September 2003. Because of the 20 year Aniversary of Mail-Art Mekka Minden, Peter Kuestermann invited Fluxus Heidelberg Center for two [Performances in Minden](#). Title of the performances are: **Mobile (Z)one** and **Channel T(W)o**. There is also a album with a selection of [Photos taken by viewers](#) of the performances.
13. **Tilburg - Netherlands**, September 2003. The [Cactus Performance](#). A play with a dangerous cactus.



14. **Breda - Netherlands**, September 2003. The [Museum Performance](#). Getting into a museum for free.
15. **Eindhoven - Netherlands**, September 2003. The [Sticker Performance](#). Make instant stickers.
16. **Heidelberg**, September-October 2003. The [Shields Performance](#). An overview of all found shields.
17. **Heidelberg**, October 2003. The [Terminator-IV Performance](#), a performance especially done for Arnold Schwarzenegger who has become Governor of California.
18. **Ziegelhausen**, October 2003. The [Chestnut Performance](#), where one has to collect chestnuts and turn them into Fluxus.
19. **Heidelberg**, December 2003. The [Red Cabbage Performance](#), where a red cabbage is used to make a collage.
20. **Heidelberg**, December 2003. The [Cheap Men Performance](#), where Litsa Spathi finds a cheap man and provokes him.
21. **Heidelberg - Stuttgart**, December 2003 - January 2004. The [Year out Year in Performance](#) for Ken Friedman.



PERFORMANCES in 2004:

1. **Heidelberg**, January 2nd 2004. The [Portrait Performance](#) done in Heidelberg, where Litsa Spathi draws portraits of Ruud Janssen.
2. **Mannheim**, January 4th 2004. The [Snow-Fluxus](#) Performance done in Mannheim.
3. **Stuttgart, Heidelberg, Mannheim**, December 2003 - January 2004. Performance done on several locations, [The Hat Performance](#), where a lot of hats were tested.
4. **New York, Tilburg, Heidelberg**, February 2004. A Fluxus Performance with a card sent by [The StickerDude](#) to Tilburg, that travels to Heidelberg and back to Tilburg, and finally goes back to new York.
5. **Several Locations Germany and Netherlands**, September - July 2004. The ["Flyer Performance"](#) - distributing Fluxus Heidelberg Center Flyers, is now ready and the final documentation is published at: [Flyer Documentation](#).
6. **Heidelberg, Tilburg**, January - December 2004. The [Calendar Performance](#) was started end of 2003 and was published starting from January 2004 in parts. To document it with full details we wrote this text. In December 2004 this performance will be ready and final documentation will be realized.
7. **Heidelberg**, August 2004. A special performance for [Yoko Ono and the Fluxus Freunde Wiesbaden e.V.](#) was done. Two mailings specially made by Litsa Spathi to combine Yoko and Ay-O in a visual poem.

8. **Stuttgart**, August 2004. The [Flying Pizza Performance](#) is placed online. A performance that we also have done before the FLuxus Heidelberg Center was founded.
9. **Heidelberg**, December 2004. A Fluxus Performance called [FLUX DRAW](#) done in the Kaufhof warehouse in the center of Heidelberg on december 27th 2004. Litsa made instant drawings on a gadget that is sold in this store. The last drawing was left there to be sold.
10. **Heidelberg (Germany) - Sami (Greece)**, December 2004. The [Year out Year in](#) Performance was also done in the previous year on invitation by Ken Friedman. This year Litsa called in the year 2004 to Sami where it already was 2005 to participate in this performance.



PERFORMANCES in 2005:

1. **Heidelberg**. January 2005. A Fluxus Performance called [Pig Performance](#) done on January 1st 2005 with a traditional backed swine.

before...  and after...  a FHC performance....

This pages gives an overview of all performances arranged and performed by Fluxus Heidelberg Center. Fluxus Heidelberg is run by the artists Litsa Spathi and Ruud Janssen.

GREEK CONSULATE PERFORMANCE

1. Get an official German Paper you need for your personal business.
2. Let this be translated by someone into the greek language.
3. Go to the Greek Consulate nearby you and get a "beglaubigung".
4. Use this form for your official business

This performance was done in Stuttgart, Germany, by Ruud Janssen and Litsa Spathi on august 4th 2003.

The photo right was taken at the start of the performance by Ruud Janssen at the door of the General Consulate in Stuttgart.

The stamping-performance took place at the first floor inside the building.

DB PERFORMANCE

The performance took place in Heidelberg on August 8th 2003 (friday).

1. Go to a railway station somewhere in Germany together with your partner.
2. Ask for the newest form to get a "Bahncard".
3. Fill in the form.
4. Stand in line to hand over the form.
5. Ask for a discount because it is a fluxus performance.
6. Go home and wait till the postman brings you the bahncards.
7. Say thank you to that postal worker when he hand over the cards.
8. Wear the cards with you for a whole year.

HORTEN / KAUFHOF PERFORMANCE - VARIATION 1

The performance took place in Heidelberg in August 2003.

1. Go to the local Shopping Center with your partner.
2. Take a poster with you on which it reads "Fluxus Performance".
3. Take a digital camera with you.
4. Go to the place where they sell cappuccino.
5. Order two cappuccino.
6. Go to the center table in the place where you order the cappuccino.
7. Drink the cappuccino and also make sure the other visitors can see the poster "Fluxus Performance".
8. Make digital photos of the person who drinks the cappuccino, the visitors, and the poster.
9. Publish the photos on the Internet.

HORTEN / KAUFHOF PERFORMANCE - VARIATION 2

The performance took place in Heidelberg in September 2003.

1. Go to the local Shopping Center with your partner.
2. Take a poster with you on which it reads "Fluxus Performance".
3. Take a digital camera with you.
4. Go to the place where they sell cappuccino and cheesecake.
5. Order two cappuccino and two cheesecakes.
6. Go to the center table in the place where you order the cappuccino.
7. Drink the cappuccino and also make sure the other visitors can see the poster "Fluxus Performance".
8. Make a Fluxus-Cross with the two forks on one of the cheesecakes before you start eating.
9. Make digital photos of the person who drinks the cappuccino, the visitors, and the poster.
10. Publish the photos on the Internet.

STAMP PERFORMANCE

The performance took place in Heidelberg in August 2003.

1. Go to the local Shopping Center with your partner.
2. Look for a shop where you can order rubber stamps.
3. Order two rubberstamp with the text FLUXUS in it for yourself and your partner.
4. Document the first use of the rubberstamps.

WIG PERFORMANCE

The performance took place in the center of Heidelberg on August 27th 2003.

1. Go to the local Shopping Center with your partner.
2. Take a poster with you on which it reads "Fluxus Performance".
3. Take a digital camera with you.
4. Go to the place where they sell wigs.
5. One tries on a wig.
6. The other one takes digital photos.
7. One tries on another wig.
8. The other one takes digital photos.
9. One tries on a third wig.
10. Try to look holy nun.
11. Publish the photos on the Internet.

LOLLY PERFORMANCE

The performance took place in Heidelberg in August 2003.

1. Buy a Lolly with taste Watermelon.
2. One person eats the lolly in front of a mirror.
3. The other one takes digital photos.
4. The results are published on the Internet.
5. The public are the visitors of this page.

INTERVIEW PERFORMANCE

The performance took place in Heidelberg on September 4th 2003. Litsa Spathi and Ruud Janssen (Fluxus Heidelberg) with journalist Marcus Kraemer of the Rhein-Neckar Zeitung.

1. Release a press text that triggers a journalist to invite you for an interview.
2. Take with you two masks and a digital camera.
3. Go to a public place where people can see you and the journalist (e.g. a cafe).
4. When the journalist asks for an example of a fluxus-performance ask him to wear the mask.
5. Wear a mask yourself as well
6. Ask someone to make a photo of your both.
7. The audience of this performance is the public on location.
8. Publish the photos on the Internet.

SAY CHEESE PERFORMANCE

The **FIRST** performance took place in the center of Heidelberg (Alte Bruecke) on September 6th 2003. It is the official presentation of **Fluxus Heidelberg** and the **Fluxus Heidelberg Center**.

In this performance the logo of Fluxus Heidelberg is presented to the public, and the following guidelines were used during the preparation and doing of the performance.

1. A press release was sent to the local press (via e-mail and through personal delivery).
2. "Bitte Laecheln" Performance Heidelberg - [press release in German language](#).
3. A press conference was given on September 4th at the local newspaper (Rhein-Neckar Zeitung - RNZ).
4. The public were the visitors / tourists at the touristic center of Heidelberg: The Old Bridge.
5. They were invited to photograph **Fluxus Heidelberg**, the presented logo and the performances.
6. For this a special [English invitation](#) was written and copied and handed over to the visitors / tourists.
7. Everybody who took a photo was invited to send a print back to the Fluxus Heidelberg center once they returned home.
8. For this occasion every photographer was handed over a stamped envelope so they could use it to return the photo.
9. This performance will be held several times at different locations so the collection of photos will grow.
10. This could be inside Heidelberg, outside Heidelberg, even outside Germany!.
11. Somewhere next year all received mail and photos will be exhibited in Heidelberg.
12. more info soon.....



FLYER PERFORMANCE

The performance is done in several variations. The principle is that an empty A4-size paper is folded and on it is placed a rubberstamp print that reads:

Date :

Signature :

(c) FluXus Heidelberg Center

The final documentation is published at: [Flyer Documentation](#).

FLYER PERFORMANCE - VARIATION 1

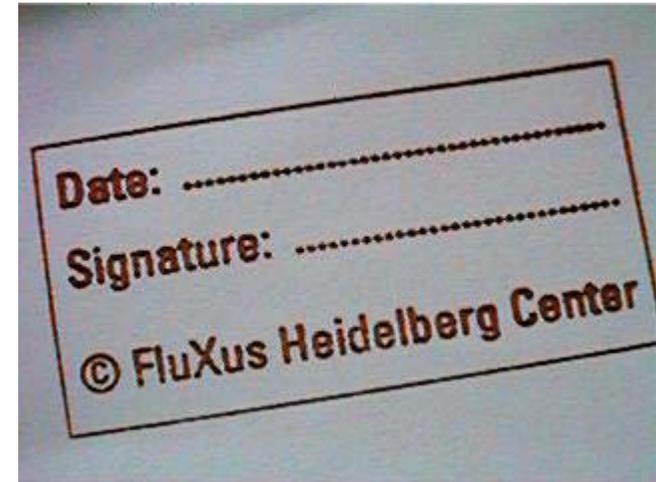
1. Stamp hundreds of empty papers with a Fluxus Stamp.
2. Distribute the papers in the mailboxes in the center of your town.
3. Document the event.

FLYER PERFORMANCE - VARIATION 2

1. Stamp hundreds of empty papers with a Fluxus Stamp.
2. Distribute the papers in the mailboxes in the center of a town you visit.
3. Document the event.

FLYER PERFORMANCE - VARIATION 3

1. Stamp hundreds of empty papers with a Fluxus Stamp.
2. Go to the center of your town and look for a good place to distribute the empty flyers.
3. Hand over the flyers to all persons passing you.
4. If someone asks what he/she should do with the paper, just reply with: "I don't know, I am just handing out these flyers".
5. Document the event.



FLYER PERFORMANCE - VARIATION 4

1. Stamp hundreds of empty papers with a Fluxus Stamp.
2. Go to a location in the center of your town where lots of visitors will come.
3. Place the flyers on a table and make a sign beside it that reads: "Free! Take a Flyer with you!"
4. Document the reactions of the public.

FLUX-MAIL PERFORMANCE

The performance took place in Heidelberg on September 9th 2003. Litsa Spathi and Ruud Janssen (Fluxus Heidelberg) at the Main Postal Office in Heidelberg.

1. Make copies of a press text that was in the newspaper about your Fluxus-Activities.
2. Sign all the copies.
3. Prepare envelope with Fluxus-stamps and do the signed copies in the envelopes.
4. Address the envelopes to all Fluxus-artists and Fluxus-related artists you know and have mailing-addresses of. For instance: Ken Friedman, Yoko Ono, BuBu, Ben Vautier, Sol Nte, Klaus Groh, Larry Miller, Geoffrey Hendricks, Alison Knowles, Nam June Paik, Larry Miller, John Held Jr. and John M. Bennett.
5. Don't send an envelope to the dead Fluxus-artists like: Dick Higgins, Joseph Beuys, George Maciunas, Marcel Duchamp, John Cage, Guillermo Deissler, John Lennon, Robin Crozier, Edgardo-Antonio Vigo, Cavellini and Ray Johnson.
6. Send one envelope to a member of your family.
7. Document all activities with photo's.
8. Publish the photos on the Internet.



MINDEN PERFORMANCE

These performances took place in Minden on September 13th (Saturday). It is for the 20 years Mail Art Mekka (Kulturverein Wolkenstein) in "Kulturzentrum BUEZ". For this occasion Fluxus Heidelberg was invited to do two performances. On this page you will find the documentation of the performances, photos, and some explanations. Most performances at the festival were documented on video, so were ours. As soon as we get the digital versions of those video's we will share some more images with you on this site.

FIRST PERFORMANCE: MOBILE (Z)ONE.

description:

1. Litsa and Ruud both wear their Fluxus Heidelberg Shirt.
2. Ruud wraps Litsa left leg, waste and right arm with plastic tape (red).
3. Ruud wraps Litsa right leg, waste and left arm with plastic tape (yellow). See also concept drawing of the performance that is published besides this text!
4. During the wrapping and further on during the performance Litsa uses a (oversized) large pencil to illustrate that the envelopes should be used to write letters. She also has A0-sized papers with her to write on.
5. On the tape envelopes are hung with in the invitation "Say Cheese". (see also [say cheese performance](#)).
6. While Ruud hangs on more envelopes the public is asked to take one envelope and to read the letter in which they are invited to make a photo of us both and to send it back to us later.
7. After the performance we pose for those who still want to make a photo.

SECOND PERFORMANCE: CHANNEL T(W)O.

description:

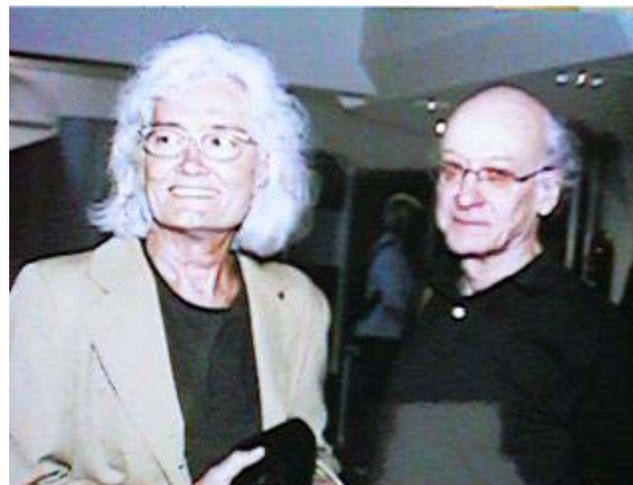
1. Ruud walks with his trolley to the stage.
2. Ruud sits down and reads his newspaper (TAM PUBLICATIONS).
3. Litsa walks with her trolley to the stage.

4. Litsa sits down and reads her newspaper (ATELIER NOBODY PRESS).
5. Ruud and Litsa interact while reading the newspapers and reveal the other pages of the newspapers.
6. Ruud gets up and opens his trolley.
7. Ruud takes out the red tape he used during the first performance.
8. Litsa says to Ruud: "No way, baby.....".
9. Litsa opens her trolley and takes out the yellow tape also used at the first performance.
10. Litsa says to Ruud: "This is my territory....."
11. Simultaneously Ruud and Litsa stick the tape to the stage and walk into the public.
12. Viewers of the performance are asked to hold a corner of the tape and are asked to wear a mask ("protect yourself").
13. The complete room is divided into parts by the red and yellow tape. The cameraman is caught between the lines as well.
14. When the room is in complete chaos, Litsa and Ruud return to the stage and put on the last two masks.
15. Both performers bow and the performance is ended.



SOME THOUGHTS AFTER THE PERFORMANCES:

1. As expected the first performance (*Mobile (Z)one*) caused some disturbance since there was already an official program going on. One of the readers of a poem even said to us during the performance: "You disturbed me.....". A nice compliment, since that was our intention.
2. About 50 envelopes were distributed during the event. A first reaction came from **Geert de Decker**, Belgium, who said he enjoyed the performance but unfortunately didn't have a camera with him, so he couldn't send back any photos.
3. Some of the viewers of the performance were old friends of us as well. To name a few: **Serge Segay** (Russia) , **Rea Nikonova** (Russia), **Geert de Decker** (Belgium) , **Henning Mittendorf** (Germany) and **Angela Mittendorf** (Germany).
4. Soon we will write some stories and reflections about the performances we did. These texts we will publish in another section on this site.....



CACTUS PERFORMANCE

The performance took place in Tilburg (the Netherlands) on September 20th 2003.

1. Look for a cactus that is about to bloom.
2. Make photos of the cactus with flower while holding is in dangerous positions.
3. Hold the flower in positions that it gets special meaning.
4. Publish the photos on the Internet.

MUSEUM PERFORMANCE

The performance took place in Museum for Modern Art "De Beyerd", Boschstraat 22, 4811 GH Breda (the Netherlands) on September 18th 2003.

1. Look for a **Museum for Modern Art** in the town you are in.
2. Put a poster of your activities on the wall of that museum and try to get the attention of the people working inside the museum.
3. Convince those people that you are important Fluxus artists and get them so far that they invite you for a free tour in their museum.
4. Make an unannounced performance in that museum.
5. Document that performances.
6. Publish the documentation on the Internet.

MUSEUM PERFORMANCE - REPORT

The performance in the **Museum for Modern Art "De Beyerd"** located in the "Boschstraat" in Breda (the Netherlands) took place on September 18th 2003. The support that talked to us even knew a lot about Fluxus since the museum had a recent Fluxus exhibition with one of the Dutch leading fluxus artists (Hitweek - Willem de Ridder). He invited us in to visit the (not yet opened) exhibition for the Breda-2003 Photo festival in which the museum was the leading location. We toured the rooms and found a video-performance which we used as background for our own performance.

We got a reaction (October 2003) from the person working at the Museum 'De Beyerd' who was on the photo. We corrected the text above a bit, but it is also interesting for the visitors of the site to read his reaction:

Hello Litsa Spathi & Ruud Janssen,

How nice to see the result of your performance! I forwarded it to Thomas Bakker who made the video-performance. There only two corrections in your positive text...

- The exhibition we had was about Hitweek, a magazine founded by Willem de Ridder who also founded The Fluxus movement (I will forward your e-mail and internetlink also, he'll like it)

- I am the guy on the picture you made with the three of us and I'm not a suppost, but the person who is responsible for publicity activities. I do not care about status much, but if you could change the text about my function, it would be more correct

But thanks anyway, i do like such kind of performances that are still going on all over the world with enthusiastic people bringing art under the people.

Regards,

*Tijs van Meel
Publicity De Beyerd*

STICKER PERFORMANCE

The performance took place in Eindhoven (the Netherlands) on September 18th 2003.

1. Look for a machine in a shopping-center that makes instant stickers that contain photos of yourself and your partner.
2. Follow the instructions of the machine. (click on the right buttons and insert the right amount of money....)
3. Make photos while doing that.
4. Look nice for the photo that will be taken for the stickers.
5. Make photos of the end result.
6. Use the stickers for a next fluxus performance.
7. Publish the photos on the Internet.

SHIELDS PERFORMANCE

During the last months Litsa Spathi and Ruud Janssen always looked for shields that they find somewhere in Heidelberg. The shields are used in the site to guide visitors to other places.

1. Look for a shield in Heidelberg.
2. Make a digital photos of it.
3. Publish the photos on the Internet.

TERMINATOR-IV PERFORMANCE

In October 2003 Arnold Schwarzenegger became Governor of the state California. Because he played the leading role in the films Terminator, Terminator-II, and Terminator-III, Litsa Spathi decided to devote a special performance to him.

1. Take two earrings that look like bionic eyes.
2. Place the earrings on your eyes.
3. Make a digital photos of this performance.
4. Try to look like a Terminator.
5. Publish the photos on the Internet.

CHESTNUT PERFORMANCE

This performance can only be done in the Autumn in an area where there are Chestnut Trees. Performed by Litsa Spathi and Ruud Janssen in the woods surrounding Ziegelhausen, Germany.

1. Make a walk in the woods without carrying any bags with you.
2. Look out for Chestnut Trees.
3. Look for fresh Chestnuts.
4. Collect them and put as many as you can in the pockets of your coat, trousers and whatever you wear.
5. Walk to a place with a table.
6. Place all found Chestnuts on the table.
7. Make a Fluxus-cross with those chestnuts.
8. Slowly change the location of the individual chestnuts to form the word Fluxus with the Chestnuts.
9. Document the process of 6, 7 and 8 with digital photos.
10. Turn off the light and make some final photos.
11. Document these photos on the Internet.

RED CABBAGE PERFORMANCE

This performance is to be carried out in a kitchen where a red cabbage is available. The performance was done by Fluxus Heidelberg on December 24th 2003.

Cutting work by Litsa Spathi

Collages by Litsa Spathi

Photos by Ruud Janssen

1. Cut up a red cabbage.
2. Arrange the slices on a plate.
3. Take some slices and make a collage out of them on your hand.
4. Make digital photos of the slices and collages.
5. Publish the photos on the Internet.
6. Cook the red cabbage (with herbs, red wine, unions, etc)
7. Serve the red cabbage to the guests present to the performance.

LOOKING FOR CHEAP MEN - PERFORMANCE

1. Go to the local shopping center in your town.
2. Look for a man that costs 10 Euro or less.
3. Make provocative remarks to him like "you aren't really a man!", or "why are you so cheap?"
4. Make digital photos during the provocation.
5. Publish the photos on the Internet.

Performance was done by Fluxus Heidelberg in Shopping Center "Galerie Kaufhoff" in Heidelberg on December 23rd 2003, just before Christmas.....

YEAR OUT YEAR IN PERFORMANCE with KEN FRIEDMAN

Like usual Ken Friedman sent out his invitation to his circle of friends to participate in his special New Year performance. Below we printed the complete invitation. Of course Fluxus Heidelberg participated in this and we did it this way:

1. We waited till the New Year had started in Greece.
2. Litsa Spathi contacted Greece.
3. Now the old year 2003 was in contact with the new year 2004.

Because of the original idea behind this performance we also made on January 2nd 2004 a special [Fluxus Poem](#) for Ken Friedman which is called: [In one year and out the Other](#) and published it in an Internet café we visited together.

We e-mailed on January 3rd 2004 from Stuttgart the URL to Ken:

Hi Ken,

Have a look at:

<http://www.fluxusheidelberg.org/fp15a.html>

To remember our participation in your performance Litsa Spathi created this special Fluxus Poem for you. Just click on the first image to go through it.....

With best wishes,

Ruud Janssen & Litsa Spathi

And here is his reaction on January 5th 2004:

Dear Ruud and Litsa,

Thank you.

This was a lovely surprise.

I was sitting here reading it out loud and laughing, and my wife heard me and came to see it.

She likes it too.

Warmest wishes,

Ken

The original text of the score (sent with his e-mail):

In One Year and Out the Other

On New Year's Eve, make a telephone call from one time zone to another so that you are conducting a conversation between people located in two years.

-- Ken Friedman , December 31, 1975

The original e-mail of the Invitation received in Heidelberg in December 2003 :

Dear Friend,

This score is your invitation to participate in a performance for the New Year that friends and I have performed every year since 1975.

The first performance took place on New Year's Eve 1975-1976. It started before midnight in Springfield, Ohio calling forward to Dick Higgins, Christo, and Nam June Paik in New York. After midnight local time, it ended with calls back to Tom Garver and Natasha Nicholson in California. I have performed this work every year since then, frequently calling Tom Garver, Peter Frank, Judy Hoffberg, Newton and Helen Harrison, Abraham Friedman and the late Dick Higgins.

The arrival of new media gave rise to new modes of performance. On New Year's of 1992-1993 I used telefax for the first time in performing this work, sent telefax messages with the score to Christo and Jeanne-Claude Christo, Peter Frank, Abraham and Shirley Friedman, Dick Higgins, Hong Hee Kim-Cheon, Choong-Sup and Yeong Lim, Karen and David Moss.

In recent years, email has extended the performance to network of friends and colleagues. The ability to share and forward email messages means that increasingly large numbers of people perform the event each year using email.

Friends tell me that mobile telephone technology now enables new enactments in which people at different New Year gatherings simultaneously call to friends in many locations, receiving return calls from different time zones shortly after.

In the Swedish country village where I live with my wife Ditte and our dog Jacob, the annual New Year gathering is generally quiet. We always cook a light supper of lobster and asparagus. In my hermeneutical interpretation of the meal, the meat of lobster represents the New Year emerging from the shell of the old, while the asparagus signifies the green growth of spring.

This year, the menu will expand with an appetizer of cantaloupe and thin slices of twice-baked ham glazed in egg mustard and bread crumbs. We will follow this with avocado sprinkled with apple cider vinegar.

Catharina Stenqvist and Eva Oesterberg will join us for dinner as they often do. Jacob's grandson, Sixten, will come with them. (Jacob and Sixten will not be sharing our lobster. Their menu will consist of an appetizer of two cheeses, Skaane Prestost and Gruyere, followed by a lightly grilled steak. It is New Year, after all, and my postmodern rendition of the St. Francis role requires a dinner for all creatures in the house.)

After dinner, we will stroll around the 800-year-old village church and accompany Eva, Cattis, and Sixten homeward as village families explode the annual fireworks display.

That will be my New Year's celebration. I hope your celebration will be warm, cheerful, and satisfying. One thing is certain, or reasonably certain, and that is the fact that a New Year is on the way.

Here are my wishes for a wonderful 2004!

Ken Friedman

PORTRAIT PERFORMANCE

Some performances can only be done with some special skills. In this one you need a partner that is able to make good drawings. The Performance was done in Heidelberg on January 2nd 2004, by Litsa Spathi and Ruud Janssen.

1. Set your partner on a chair.
2. Ask him to sit still for 15 minutes.
3. Take two pieces of paper and a pen with Indian Ink.
4. Make a drawing of your partner when he looks at you and where you imagine him to be in a different role.
5. Make another drawing where you make a profile-portrait of him where you change the hair into a harness.
6. Digitize the portraits.
7. Publish the portraits on the Internet.

SNOW - FLUXUS PERFORMANCE

Some performances can only be done when you live in a country where it might snow. The Performance was done in Mannheim on January 4th 2004, by Litsa Spathi and Ruud Janssen. We heard on the news that it was snowing in Mannheim and travelled from Heidelberg to Mannheim to do this performance there.

1. Listen to the news and wait till they predict snow somewhere near you.
2. Travel to the location where it is snowing or has snowed.
3. Look for a car that is covered with fresh snow.
4. Write the word FLUXUS in the snow on the backside window of the car.
5. Make digital photos while doing that.
6. Publish the portraits on the Internet.

HAT PERFORMANCE

This performance was done by Litsa Spathi & Ruud Janssen during December 2003 and January 2004 on several locations (Heidelberg, Mannheim and Stuttgart)

1. Go to the shopping center of a town.
2. Look for shops where they sell hats.
3. Try on as many hats as possible.
4. Look in the mirror to see if the hat looks good on you.
5. Make digital photos while doing that.
6. Publish the portraits on the Internet.

PERFORMANCE with The StickerDude

Joel Cohen, better known as **The StickerDude** from New York (**RaggedEdge Press**, -new address since July 26th 2004 - : **200 Hudson St. 7th Floor, New York, NY 10013-1807, USA**), always sends us these surprise packages. In the beginning of 2004 he sent me the one illustrated besides this text. It was a reply to a letter we sent him from the Fluxus Heidelberg Center with in it details of the start of the center and prints of some of the performances we already did. In his reply he sent one of his lovely cards ("Meeting Adrift", Illustration by Thomas Kerr - Art Direction by The StickerDude (c) RaggedEdge Press, NYC see more info at www.RaggedEdgePress.com). The card had a note attached to it: "Send this to your Fluxus Heidelberg Sweetheart". And off course I did so.

Litsa Spathi received the card and observed it for weeks. Then she decided to make a drawing on the opposite side of the card, and created the Fluxus Poem on it (see below). The text that belongs to it: Fluxus Poem created on February 10th 2004 by Litsa Spathi as a reaction to the mail received from The StickerDude (USA). Title: "Meeting Adrift".

For the Fluxus Heidelberg Center folded cards of this Fluxus Poem were printed and distributed throughout the art world. As a gift of what the StickerDude has started he will receive back the original artwork.

The Card travelled from New York (USA) to Tilburg (the Netherlands). From Tilburg to Heidelberg (Germany). Then - transformed - back from Heidelberg to Tilburg. There it is digitized and published on the Fluxus Heidelberg Center Site. Cards are printed from these digital files. And on February 14th the card is returned to the StickerDude. It has a lot in it of a real-life Fluxus Performance. See the original and transformed work below.....

FLYER PERFORMANCE DOCUMENTATION

The performance is done in several variations. The principle is that an empty A4-size paper is folded and on it is placed a rubberstamp print that reads:

Date :

Signature :

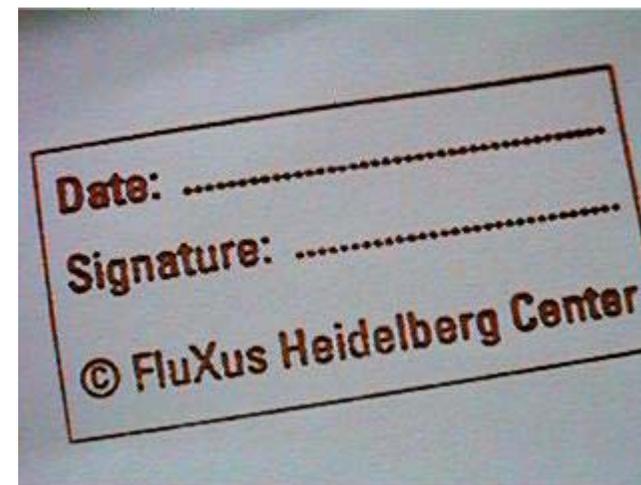
(c) FluXus Heidelberg Center

FLYER PERFORMANCE - VARIATION 1

1. Stamp hundreds of empty papers with a Fluxus Stamp.
2. Distribute the papers in the mailboxes in the center of your town.
3. Document the event.

FLYER PERFORMANCE - VARIATION 2

1. Stamp hundreds of empty papers with a Fluxus Stamp.
2. Distribute the papers in the mailboxes in the center of a town you visit.
3. Document the event.



FLYER PERFORMANCE - VARIATION 3

1. Stamp hundreds of empty papers with a Fluxus Stamp.
2. Go to the center of your town and look for a good place to distribute the empty flyers.
3. Hand over the flyers to all persons passing you.
4. If someone asks what he/she should do with the paper, just reply with: "I don't know, I am just handing out these flyers".
5. Document the event.

FLYER PERFORMANCE - VARIATION 4

1. Stamp hundreds of empty papers with a Fluxus Stamp.
2. Go to a location in the center of your town where lots of visitors will come.
3. Place the flyers on a table and make a sign beside it that reads: "Free! Take a Flyer with you!"
4. Document the reactions of the public.

CALENDAR PERFORMANCE

The Concept of the Calendar Performance.

End of the year 2003 Litsa Spathi had made 13 collages that formed the basis of a calendar. She proposed to make this a digital calendar for the Fluxus Heidelberg Center. The collages would be placed on a calendar format (in German language), and each calendar-leaf would give access to all the data from the Fluxus Heidelberg Center connected to that specific month.

Litsa suggested she would make a special drawing for this performance each month and that she would include the details in the drawing. This way a whole year of activities would be documented in the calendar as the year passes by.

That data would only be accessible after the month has passed. Because we just changed the menu-structure of our site (see [Sitemaps](#)) we needed to adjust the structure again. For this we made a combined drawing on which Ruud made the HTML-structure and Litsa added her drawing (like she has done to several other sitemaps of our site). This drawing was constructed in a way that you could view it in two different ways. That is why we added the drawing to the sitemap-collection as well.

In the whole concept Litsa Spathi would be directing the visual part (collages, drawings and the texts in the drawings) while Ruud Janssen would be responsible for the online work (scanning the images and formatting them in HTML for online use).

The drawing of the concept convinced us both to start with this project. A long-term Calendar Performance was born, since it would both cost us a lot of time to make this monthly update to our site. We also planned to place the access to the calendar in the menu so visitors of our site would be able to follow our activities. Without knowing it, the year 2004 is a very important year for the Fluxus Heidelberg Center.

Because the Fluxus Heidelberg Center is located in Heidelberg (where Litsa Spathi lives) and Ruud Janssen lives in Tilburg (the Netherlands). The concept involves also the passing on of information. Litsa will collect all the data of what happens at the Fluxus Heidelberg Center (actually her private life and how the Center influences her life), and will make the drawing with the details. That drawing has to get to Ruud Janssen so he can digitize it. Sometimes Ruud travels to Heidelberg for that, sometimes Litsa goes to Tilburg to bring the drawing. If time isn't there the mail is used. The making of the drawing is mostly done in Heidelberg. Digitizing is mostly

done in Tilburg. Putting things online can happen anywhere since one only needs access to Internet (a good Internet-cafe would do..... like Netlounge in Ploeckstreet, Heidelberg).

The Procedure to create the Calendar during 2004.

After thinking out this concept the following procedure was followed to make the calendar reality:

1. The collages are scanned and prepared for the site as calendar-files.
2. The originals are sent back to the Fluxus Heidelberg Center Archive.
3. The menu-structure is altered so the calendar would fit and could grow.
4. Each month Litsa makes a list of what has happened at the Fluxus Heidelberg Center and makes a drawing where the text is integrated into. The drawing is signed by Litsa. (with her typical signature for her drawings, since the copyright belongs to her). Besides this text you see how Litsa's signature looks like (The Greek letters Sigma and Lambda, for Spathi, Litsa). Mostly there are too many details and activities, so Litsa edits the list and decides what comes on the calendar or not. For instance on the July 2004 calendar drawing 20 activities and names didn't make it onto the calendar-drawing because of selection.
5. This drawing has to reach Ruud, who will than digitize it.
6. The originals are sent back to the Fluxus Heidelberg Center Archive.
7. The format of the drawing is altered so it fits on a computer screen and the resolution stays o.k.
8. The HTML-structure of the site is changed so that a visitor can access the Calendar and will find the most current month (which also contains the collage by Litsa Spathi)
9. When the visitor clicks on the collage, he/she will go directly to the drawing with the activities made by Litsa Spathi.
10. When the visitor clicks on this drawing he/she will go straight to the part of the site where one of the new activities is documented. This way a visitor get an idea of how the modern Fluxus life goes.
11. When the year is over a printed version of the calendar will be made. It is not decided yet in which edition and on what conditions it can be obtained.

Experiment to make the calendar known to others.

The Concept and the procedure are followed for 4 months when we thought out an experiment to make the calender more known to others. It is decided to make a copy of the original calendar-drawing on A3 sized paper. These copies will be marked by both or one of the Fluxus Heidelberg members (sticker with address, copyright stamp and highlight the name of the person that is mentioned on the calendar-drawing and receives the copy).

Starting from the April 2004 issue we did this, and the copies reached the mentioned persons or institutes. This also caused reactions to the Fluxus Heidelberg Center, but also caused some confusion by receivers. Some started to send in mail to actually get mentioned on the calendar. Also some mixed up who did what in connection to this calendar.

Reason for writing this text.

After sending out the copies of the calendar to the mentioned persons, we found out that some people inside the mail-art network aren't that concerned about concepts and copyright. The Fluxus Heidelberg Center works with concepts purely. The copyright on all we do is there and we will not tolerate misuse of this legal protection. A sample of what we are confronted with: *"Hello, Ruud, Always good to hear from you and to see my name on your calendar."* So someone received a copy of a calendar-drawing from the Netherlands and hasn't realized that the drawing is made by Litsa Spathi (it contains her signature, is made in her style and is obviously written with her handwriting). He writes to Ruud Janssen to say how much he likes "his" work, and doesn't write to the creator of the drawing. Also he writes to the "wrong" address. All mail in connection to the Fluxus Heidelberg Center has to be addressed to Heidelberg. There it will be processed.

As a result of such reactions we even tried to make things clearer for the receivers and we made rubberstamps stating: *"Drawing by Litsa Spathi"*. Even that didn't help, and it seems that especially mail-artists don't care about these copyrights and the ownership of concepts. So this text is written to make our concept clear and also to document who has done what in the performance that lasts one year. The Fluxus Heidelberg Center will act when someone violates the copyrights that belongs to the visuals. If someone want to use our visuals than they need our written permission so that things are clear. We have previously been confronted with the wrong assigning of work to other names, so hopefully you will understand this.

Once again we would like to emphasize that we work with Fluxus concepts, not mail-art. All our work is very well documented and thought out in advance. This documentation of the calendar performance could serve as a sample of how we work.

Documenting the Calendar Performance.

After the last drawing in December 2004 this performance is ended. We will prepare a special documentation of this performance. Below this text you can find an overview of all drawings and collages that were included in the performance. As soon as the publication is ready you will find the details here.

Each older calendar will give access to a drawing by Litsa Spathi with certain details of what happened during that specific month at the Fluxus Heidelberg Center. Also some of the mail received at the Center is mentioned on it including the names of senders and receivers. An Enlarged A3-sized copy is mostly sent to the persons mentioned. You can also go straight to the details of : [Cover 2004](#) , [January 2004](#) , [February 2004](#) , [March 2004](#) , [April 2004](#) , [May 2004](#) , [June 2004](#) , [July 2004](#) , [August 2004](#) , [September 2004](#) , [October 2004](#) , [November 2004](#) , [December 2004](#) . But more fun is to surprise yourself and go to the collages and see what happened in a month with a link to that item.

Click on that month below. You will then access to collage by Litsa Spathi. Click again and see all the activities combined with the drawing:

[Cover 2004](#) | [January 2004](#) | [February 2004](#) | [March 2004](#) | [April 2004](#) | [May 2004](#) | [June 2004](#) | [July 2004](#) | [August 2004](#) | [September 2004](#) | [October 2004](#) | [November 2004](#) | [December 2004](#)

Litsa Spathi & Ruud Janssen January 19th 2005

Yoko Ono & Fluxus Freunde Wiesbaden e.V. Performance.

The performance is done in Heidelberg on two locations (Fluxus Heidelberg Center, Main Postal Office). As a reaction to a letter from Jurgen O. Olbrich (No-Institute, Kassel, Germany) and the information about the upcoming exhibition of the japanese Fluxus veteran AY-O in Wiesbaden, we decided to do a performance in which two letters are sent out simultaneously. One went to Yoko Ono in New York. The other one to the Fluxus Freunde Wiesbaden Association because they organize the exhibition.

The reason for the performance is quite simple. AY-O is japanese. We have had no previous contact with him. The exhibition is a collaboration of AY-O with concept-artist Jurgen O. Olbrich, whom we both know very well. Yoko Ono is Japanese and connected to Fluxus, and only recently sent us mail. With this simultaneous mailing we make connections between two YO's by playing with the letters.....

The envelopes are made by Litsa Spathi. She uses a special concept that is applied for special envelopes by the Fluxus Heidelberg Center. This time it was decided to document the process so other receivers can understand how these envelopes are produced. Photos of the performance are made by Ruud Janssen. Below you will find a description of how the process goes and the photos show how the envelopes look like. The mailing of the envelopes at the post office was documented as well. These fotos will be included later.

Description:

1. Two A4-sized envelopes are placed on the working table.
2. A special Credit Card is used to place boxes on the envelope which will contain the name of the receiver and the word Fluxus.
3. The word FLUXUS is stamped with red ink, using a special stamping-set. To mark the X this letter is stamped in blue. This is also how in the logo of the Fluxus Heidelberg Center the X is emphasized.
4. The name of the receiver is stamped on the envelope. The first name above Fluxus, the second name under Fluxus. Two rows are left open for the final addition of X and +
5. The empty rows are filled with blue X and green + signs. This way the first name and last name are connected to the word Fluxus in the middle.
6. The lines for the individual letters are surrounded with dotted lined using indian ink. When needed special effects are used to create the fluxus poem made by the letters.
7. Small arrows direct to an empty box where the address will be added.
8. The address is written in the box with Litsa's typical handwriting.
9. the senders' address is added (stamp and/or sticker of the Fluxus Heidelberg Center).
10. When the Fluxus Poem is ready the special stamp "Fluxus Poem by Litsa Spathi" is placed, and Litsa signes and dates the work.

11. The work is now ready to be mailed. A trip to the center of Heidelberg is made where postage stamps are bought.
12. On a special table inside the postal office the special postal stamps are placed on the envelope in the special place left open. Also a priority or "Luftpost" sticker is placed on the envelope, when needed.
13. The last step of this performance: The envelopes are thrown into the Mailbox that stands inside the Postal Office.
14. Of this performance about 120 digital photos are made. Some of these are used to illustrate this page on the website. Also 10 regular photos are made inside the postal office (a few will be added to this text and the final documentation).

*For the latest details, visit www.fluxusfreunde.de , the site of **FluxusFreunde Wiesbade e.V.***

More details about the exhibition in Wiesbaden:

10 Years after his last solo-exhibition in Europe the Fluxus Freunde Wiesbaden Association presents the great Japanes artists AY-O (born 1931), in a collaboration with the Kasseler concept-artist Jurgen O. Olbrich. Location: the former bathing room "Pariser Hof" where the installation will be presented. Title: "Rainbow Objects Mandala". Opening Friday September 10th with Emmett Williams. Exhibition lasts till October 11th. Address: Im Pariser Hof, Spiegelgasse 9, 65183 Wiesbaden, Germany.

Flying Pizza's Performance - In four parts.

The performance is done again in Stuttgart in the main shopping street in Stuttgart (Koeningsstrasse) on Monday, August 23rd 2004. After the performance there was a radio-interview with a journalist from the regional radio-station SWR-1 that is located in Stuttgart. This performance has a long history since the concept is thought out by us 6 years ago and it was first done in 1998, even before we founded the Fluxus Heidelberg Center. The performance is always done like written in the description, and always in an Italian Restaurant. The public of the performance are the other visitors that are present on the location and the waiter.

This performance "Flying Pizza's - in four parts" was performed by Litsa Spathi & Ruud Janssen in:

Heidelberg - Germany, 1998.

Zakynthos - Greece, 1998.

Antwerpen - Belgium, 2001.

Amsterdam - Netherlands, 2001.

Stuttgart - Germany, 2004.

Description:

1. Go with two persons to a Italian restaurant.
2. Order two different large pizza's.
3. Split each pizza in two parts.
4. Transport one half of the pizza to the other plate while the other does the same.
5. Eat the pizza-parts (all four of them).
6. The audience is the public and waiters in the Italian restaurant.

FLUX DRAW PERFORMANCE

The performance took place in Heidelberg in the Kaufhof on December 27th 2004.

1. Go to a warehouse where they sell drawing gadgets.
2. Look for the "Magische Zauber Tafel" (German for Magic Tricks Table).
3. Make drawings on the display model.
4. Document the drawing and the process with digital photos.
5. Remove the drawing so it is vanished.
6. Repeat this process four times.
7. Add to the last drawing that this is an original and offer it for sale.
8. Leave the drawing in the store.
9. Publish the photos of this performance on the Internet.

PIG PERFORMANCE

The performance took place in Heidelberg - Ziegelhausen, on January 1st 2005.

1. Invite some close friends for New Years day at your home.
2. Hope that they bring some good fortune with them.
3. When this is in the form of a bread, shaped in the form of a pig, make photos of it while you are holding the pig in front of your head.
4. Realise that this will bring good fortune to you and your guests for the whole year.
5. Publish the photos on the Internet.