

HAPPENING
EST. LATE 1950'S - 60'S



ASSOCIATED WITH: ALLAN KAPROW,
THE "NEW JERSEY SCHOOL", RUTGERS, UC SAN DIEGO

LOOSE DEFINITION:

A new form of media art in which audience participation plays a key role.

UNIQUE

ONE-TIME

PERFORMATIVE

PARTICIPATORY

IMPROVISATIONAL

UNPREDICTABLE

NEW

SPONTANEOUS

NON-HIERARCHICAL

UNSTRUCTURED

INTERACTIVE

“THE ART DEFINES ITSELF BY THE FACT THAT IT IS A UNIQUE,
ONE-TIME EXPERIENCE THAT DEPENDS ON AUDIENCE RESPONSE.
IT CANNOT BE BOUGHT OR BROUGHT HOME...”



ALLAN KAPROW, FLUIDS, 1967

“I HAD THE SENSE THAT I KNEW IT WAS SOMETHING. I KNEW IT WAS SOMETHING BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS. I THINK THAT IS WHEN YOU ARE AT YOUR BEST POINT. WHEN YOU'RE REALLY DOING SOMETHING, YOU'RE DOING IT ALL OUT, BUT YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS.” - RED GROOMS



YOKO ONO, CUT PIECE, JAPAN 1964

“VISITORS TO A HAPPENING ARE NOW AND THEN NOT SURE WHAT HAS TAKEN PLACE, WHEN IT HAS ENDED, EVEN WHEN THINGS HAVE GONE ‘WRONG.’ FOR EVEN WHEN SOMETHING GOES ‘WRONG,’ SOMETHING FAR MORE ‘RIGHT,’ MORE RELEVATORY, HAS MANY TIMES EMERGED.”



ALLAN KAPROW , THE YARD, 1959

“THE LINE BETWEEN THE HAPPENING AND DAILY LIFE SHOULD BE
KEPT AS FLUID, AND PERHAPS INDISTINCT, AS POSSIBLE.”



ALLAN KAPROW , HOUSEHOLD, 1959



ALLEN KAPROW, THE COURTYARD, NYC 1962

“HAPPENINGS INVITE US TO CAST ASIDE FOR THE MOMENT
THESE PROPER MANNERS AND PARTAKE WHOLLY IN THE
REAL NATURE OF THE ART AND LIFE. IT IS A ROUGH AND
SUDDEN ACT, WHERE ONE OFTEN FEELS ‘DIRTY’..”



ALLAN KAPROW , GAS, 1966

MODERN EXAMPLES OF HAPPENINGS



INTERNATIONAL PILLOW FIGHT DAY



SILENT DISCO



BURNING MAN



FLASH MOB