

Analysis of Fluxus manifesto (1961) by George Maciunas

The nature of this manifesto is extremely anti-art, anti bourgeois and somewhat paradoxical due to Fluxus fluid nature. The movement tends from Dadaism's revolutionary ideas, the art style is comprised an intermedia philosophy. This is why the manifesto seems to have a cut and past temperament; the other part of the philosophy is to have concise and comprehensive sentences. This is done to allow the works of the Fluxus movement to have a signifying style; separate from that of Dadaism and to consent the appeal only to the objective audience. The target audience being that of the intellectual, quizzical and confrontational short.

Half the manifesto seems to be comprised of various dictionary definitions, this is to try and describe that which is Fluxus within respect to the movement. Something that has a fluid nature will always change to suit its environment, Fluxus could be said to be the basis of the transient of properties in relation to a metaphysical state of consciousness, i.e. Dualism are right of choice over our continuance of reality in context the multiverse theory.

Although Fluxus in principle is an anti-art movement, that brings into question art in its totality. Art is merely a word, a thought and a physical form; nonentity is one of two outcomes that decide if art is art. The true decider is the amalgamated human mind, art is, art only once we have put a word to it. Before that it is untitled, something that lacks identity or propose at least in the eyes of the human collegiate; the untitled piece might as well be Ragnarok of the human consciousness.

Fluxus is a work and just like every other word it has significance and something that it was designed for. It was given life to portray the ideals of Fluxus. The way in which Maciunas talks about the intend nature is quite condescending; this was probably to reflect his disgust with the society.

In the first written paragraph, the instruction to purge is given; mainly against the rapidly changing world. Commercialization was at all time high, professional companies were taking all the busyness; leaving many unemployed and the hierarchy of class became ever more apparent. Amongst all of this a lot of large political events were happening; the Treaty of Paris and Treaty of Rome happening merely a few years before this manifestos publishing. Creating social distress. European art movements also had the media hype; causing an upheaval of poetic classes. 'PURGE the world of dead art,

imitation, artificial art, abstract art, illusionistic art, mathematical art.' These represent some of the art movements that occurred between the periods of Dadaism and Fluxus. Surrealism, Abstract Expressionism, Pop art and Op art all came about during this brief period. All of these art movements represented something that went against the Fluxus philosophy, mainly that the art was complex and commercialized.

The second paragraph is about the promotion of the concepts that make up the Fluxus philosophy. 'Living art' to put a stop to commercial art; art should be made as a gift to be viewed and received, sucked dry to make a profit. 'Anti-art' to question the very facets of art and 'Non Art Reality'; to be able to distinguish between art and reality. 'To ~~fully~~ grasped by all peoples, critics, dilettantes and professionals. This sentence says a large portion about Fluxus philosophy; it basically states that they know that the masses will not understand the complex concepts behind there work. Because they are saying that the masses have been conditioned, to simplistic artistic notions. That even critics, dilettantes and professionals will struggle with the Anti-art concepts because it goes against there beliefs. This is why the word fully is crossed out and why much of the notions portrayed within movement are paradoxical at times. Because at the very best of times, this movement is trying to destroy its foundations that it is built upon. Which in some ways is reminiscent of a Temporal Paradox.

The final paragraph is a simple call to action, to anyone that cares about there culture, there social standing or the politics of there country and come together to form a united front. To sum up this manifesto is an attempt at a revolt in the art world.