

**Ken Friedman**  
**92 Events**

**Torrance Art Museum**

**2022**

### **Scrub Piece**

Go to a public monument on the first day of spring.

Clean it thoroughly.

No announcement is necessary.

KF  
1956

### **The Light Bulb**

Create and perform an improvisational drama.

Present the drama as a radio or television program

in which there is a symbolic or physical relationship between the sponsor and the featured characters.

KF  
1956

### **Table Stack**

Build a stack of tables.

Each table should stand directly above and on top of the next table below.

KF  
1956

### **Untitled Card Event**

Send a postcard to someone every day.

Each card in the sequence should transmit one word or letter.

The series of cards should spell out a word or a message.

KF  
1957

### **Card Trace**

Mail a series of cards during a journey or sequence of activities. The assembled set of cards becomes a map or chart of the passage through time or space.

KF  
1958

### **Green Street**

Acquire a Japanese folding scroll.

Keep it in a blank state.

After a minimum of ten years, or on the death of the performer, inscribe the name of the performer, the date of acquisition and the date at the time of inscription.

The performance continues

Until the scroll is filled with inscriptions.

KF  
1959

### **Christmas Tree Event**

Take a Christmas tree into an all-night restaurant.

Place the tree in a seat next to you.

Order two cups of coffee.

Place one in front of the tree.

Sit with the tree, drinking coffee and talking.

After a while, depart.

Leave the tree in its seat.

As you leave, call out loudly to the tree,

"So long, Herb. Give my love to the wife and kids."

KF  
1964

### **The Judgment of Paris**

An installation presents three images.

Beneath each image is a shelf or platform.

Each viewer may choose the image he judges most beautiful.

A golden apple is placed beneath the chosen image.

KF  
1964

### **White Bar**

A bar or tavern in a simple room.

The room is plain, light wood.

The bar is a wooden table.

Only clear liquors or spirits are served.

The bottles are lined up at one end of the bar with several rows of clean glasses.

There is a bowl of limes.

KF  
1964

### **Cheers**

Conduct a large crowd of people to the house of a stranger.

Knock on the door.

When someone opens the door, the crowd cheers and claps.

All depart silently.

KF  
1965

### **Copernicus**

Build a model of the solar system.

Use different kinds of objects to represent the sun and planets.

Make the model reasonably accurate for relative size, scale, and distance.

There may be six planets as in the Copernican universe, nine planets as there were in 1965, or eight planets as determined by the International Astronomical Association in 2006.

KF  
1965 (Revised 2006)

### **Edison's Lighthouse**

Create a passage with facing mirrors.

Place candles in front of each mirror.

Vary the nature and intensity of light by varying the number and placement of candles.

KF  
1965

### **Open and Shut Case**

Make a box.

On the outside, print the word "Open."

On the inside, print the words "Shut quick."

KF  
1965

### **Dark Mirror**

Create a dark, mirrored floor in a white, well-lit room.

Apply high-gloss, black enamel paint to a wooden floor.

Sand the floor, buff it, and paint it again.

Repeat the action until the floor is a reflective surface.

Subdue the lighting.

KF  
1966

### **Different Card Fluxdeck**

Make a deck of cards in which every card in the deck is different from every other card in the deck.

The deck can be made by taking cards from different decks.

It must be possible to assemble all the cards in the deck into the complete and proper sequence of a full deck of cards.

Every card in the deck should have a unique back and a front that is different in some way from the other cards in the deck, whether the difference is large or small.

KF  
1966

### **Light Table Variation**

Set a wooden table with many candles of different kinds,

large and small, colored and plain, ordinary and shaped, normal and scented.

Place the candles on the table.

Stand thin candles in candlesticks and candleholders.

Stand thick candles and square candles directly on the table.

Anyone who wishes to bring new candles may place them on the table.

Light the candles.

KF  
1966

### **Fluxus Television**

Paint on the glass screens of television sets.

KF  
1966

### **Fruit in Three Acts**

1. A peach.
2. A watermelon.
3. A pear.

KF  
1966

### **Imprint**

Produce an item bearing a printed identification that describes its own species or genus.

Examples include printed pages imprinted "Printed Matter," a rubber stamp reading "Rubber Stamp," or a pencil imprinted "Pencil."

KF  
1966

### **Mandatory Happening**

A card printed:

You will decide to read this score or not to read it. When you have made your decision, the happening is over.

KF  
1966

### **The Wanderer**

Wander through the streets of a city in long robes and a broad brimmed hat.

KF  
1966

### **Radio Clock**

Announce the time at one-minute intervals for the entire duration of a radio broadcast.

KF  
1966

### **Notes for the Bartered Bride**

A suitor gives several oxen to the father of his bride-to-be for the wedding price.

The father gives him two sheep, saying,

"Here's your change."

KF  
1966

### **Stage Reversal**

Go on stage naked, covered with paint.

Wash.

Dress and leave stage.

KF  
1966

### **Street Pieces**

Make objects.

Leave the objects in the street for passers-by.

KF  
1966

## **Tavern**

Assemble a collection of small liquor bottles.

Construct a rectangular wooden box, open at the top.

Set a strip of wood so that the rectangular box has two areas: one square and a rectangle half the size of the square.

Set most of the bottles in the square area.

Set one bottle in the smaller area.

Mix plaster of Paris sufficient to fill the box to the edge.

Fill the box so that the plaster sets around the bottles.

KF  
1966

## **Thirty Feet**

Find a piece of paper 30 feet square.

Inscribe a circle on the page.

KF  
1966

## **Zen for Record**

Produce a phonograph record with no sound on it.

KF  
1966

## **Zen Vaudeville**

The sound of one shoe tapping.

KF  
1966

## **White Objects**

Objects are painted white.

The objects may be given away or deposited.

KF  
1966

## **Orchestra**

Assemble an orchestra. Each member of the orchestra plays a phonograph for an instrument. The entire orchestra plays the phonographs.

Concerts consist of different kinds of performances.

All performers may attempt to play the same record, perhaps trying to cue up and play at the same time or perhaps simply playing sections at random.

Each performer or different sections may play entirely different pieces of music, and so on.

For a chamber music variation, use a small ensemble.

KF  
1967

## **City**

Construct a city of found material.

Let the city grow and change over a span of time.

Abandon the completed city where it stands.

KF  
1967

## **Do-It-Yourself Monument**

Build a monument.

KF  
1967

## **Empaquetage pour Christo**

A modest object is wrapped.

KF  
1967

## **Chair**

Mail a chair.

KF  
1967

## **Mailing**

Mail an item to yourself prior to departing on a trip.

Receive it on arrival.

KF  
1967

## **Unfinished Symphony**

Find something.

Carry it out to its most logical conclusion.

KF  
1967

## **Telephone Clock**

Telephone someone.

Announce the time.

KF  
1967

## **Telephone Event**

Take a telephone to someone's door.

Ring the bell.

When someone comes to the door, hand them the phone, saying,

"It's for you."

KF  
1967

## **Twenty Gallons**

Cook soup for several hundred people.

KF  
1967

## **Boxing Day**

Acquire, fill, and distribute boxes in the immediate environment and at a distance.

KF  
1968

## **Contents**

Empty boxes.

On each box is a printed word representing the contents.

KF  
1968

## **Paper Architecture**

Hang a large sheet or several large sheets of paper on the walls of a room.

Inscribe the sheets with full-scale architectural features, such as doors, windows, or stairs, or with objects such as furniture, lamps, books, etc.

Use these drawings to imagine, create, or map an environment.

The drawings may create or map new features in an existing environment.

They may mirror, double or reconstruct existing features in situ or elsewhere.

To create relatively permanent features with the drawings, apply them directly to a wall.

KF  
1968

## **The Three Ages of Man**

Three containers stand on an old table.

A container with four legs or points touching the table contains powdered milk.

A container with a solid base and one large external point contains sugar.

A container with three legs or points contains salt.

KF  
1968

## **Aktual Walk**

Retrace steps.

KF  
1969

## **Cloud Chamber**

Charter a small airplane.

Take it up into a cloudy area of sky.

Hold bags and bottles out the window to collect cloud vapors.

Place the bags and bottles in an empty, white room.

Open them to release the clouds.

KF  
1969

## **Shadow Box**

Build a shallow box with a glass top.

Place a piece of paper in the bottom of the box.

Lay an object over the paper.

Set the box in the sunlight for a long period of time.

Wait until the action of the sun etches the shadow of the object into the paper.

KF  
1969

## **The General Assembly Social Justice Special**

After a lavish meal, the assembled celebrants engage the services of a professional belcher

whose responsibility it is to express the group's appreciation to the chef.

KF  
1969

## **Continental Divide**

Document or commemorate passage across the Continental Divide.

KF  
1969

## **Heat Transfer Event**

Set up a minimum of three glasses.

Fill one with ice water.

Fill one with boiling tea.

Get one or more empty glasses.

Transfer the liquids from glass to glass until the tea is cooled to drinkable temperature.

KF  
1970

## **The New Critic**

A column of criticism is published. In each column, the critic is photographed holding up

the artwork to be discussed (or a reproduction of the work), the recording, or the book, etc. The critical opinion is rendered by a "thumbs-up" or "thumbs-down" signal in the photograph. There is no other comment.

KF  
1970

## **The Silent Night**

Walk quietly through a residential neighbourhood on Christmas Eve with a lantern.

KF  
1970

## **Earth Work**

Acquire a parcel of land by purchase or lease. The parcel is comprised of one cubic foot of land at a depth of six or more feet beneath presently owned land. The owned land may be empty or it may have buildings and improvements.

Acquire no rights for building, leasing, subleasing, mineral, oil, access, etc.

The ownership or leasehold of the land comprises the work of art.

KF  
1971

## Silent Shoes

Spend the night sleeping on a friend's doorstep.

In the morning, leave a pair of shoes behind.

KF  
1971

## Water Table

Set a full formal table with full service for four.

All service is white porcelain or clear glass.

Fill all objects, utensils, etc. with water.

KF  
1971

## Distance

The distance from the sentence to your eye is my sculpture.

KF  
1971

## 10, 000

Mail to friends, people chosen by random processes, or other groupings of individuals, 10, 000 objects, papers, events, etc., over the span of a pre-determined time.

KF  
1971

## Flow System

Invite anyone – and everyone – to send an object or a work to an exhibition.

Display everything that is received.

Any visitor to the exhibition may take away an object or work.

KF  
1972

## Replication

Choose a site.

Act upon the site or work on the site in such a manner that after departure the site looks as it did prior to the work.

KF  
1972

## Centennial

In honor of Nicholas Slonimsky's 100th birthday, bury a long line of 100 cases of dynamite in the desert, each at a 200 meter interval from the case before.

Detonate the cases one after the other.

KF  
1973

## Woolen Goods

Observe an unexplained silence.

KF  
1973

## 24 Hours

720 clocks are placed in a room.

Each is set to one of the minutes between 12:00 and 11:59.

KF  
1974

## Theft Event for J -C

Please steal this event.

KF  
1981

## Chair Event for Larry Miller

The performer takes all available chairs in a designated area. The chairs are transported to another designated area where they are set up for seating and left.

KF  
1982

## Anarchists' Showcase

Invite Nam June Paik, Charlotte Moorman, and Dick Higgins to perform anything twice.

KF  
1982



## Variation for Food and Piano

A piano is prepared with food.  
(The piano may be played.)

KF  
1982

## The Last Days of Pompeii

A desk or table.

A beautiful calendar or time  
planner is open on the desk.

The book is open to a date  
selected at random.

Written on the page with 3 p.m.  
circled:

"Destroy Pompeii this afternoon."

KF  
1985

## Rotterdam Exchange

Anyone may bring an object.

Objects delivered are painted  
white.

Anyone who brings an object

May take any other object.

KF  
1986

## Rational Music

Take the score of a symphony.

Organize the symphony in such  
a way that all notes of any given  
kind are played consecutively.

For example, take all instances of  
the note B#.

Then, assemble all B# notes in  
series by time value, so that whole  
notes, half notes, quarter notes,  
etc., are played consecutively.

The entire series is performed in  
sequence.

You may score the piece so that  
work is equally divided among  
all instruments, or you may  
use another rational scoring  
technique, for example, all  
violins represented by one violin  
and so on through all groups of  
instruments.

Other techniques might permit the  
entire performance to be realized  
on piano; notes distributed by  
section – oboes take A $\flat$ , bassoons  
take A, bass trombones take A#,  
and so on; or simple rotation of  
notes through all performers until  
the piece is complete.

Refinements may be considered.

KF  
1987

In 2016, composer Hans Gurstad-  
Nilsson scored Rational Music for sheet  
music publication.

## Homage to Mahler

Perform a symphony.

Have the different sections of the  
orchestra march on and off stage  
as they perform.

KF  
1989

## Viking Event

Performers enter from stage right  
and stage left. Each stands at the  
far edge of the stage.

One shouts, "Hail, Ragnar!"

The other shouts back,  
"Hail, Einar!"

KF  
1989

## Neck Tie Party

Borrow an ugly necktie from  
a friend.

Give it to another friend.

KF  
1989

## Theater Exercise

Stage a play in which the actors  
carry the scenery with them.

They construct and take down  
scenery and stage materials  
while they play is in progress.

KF  
1989

## Two Second Encore

The performer walks out on stage, looks at the audience with sincerity and passion.

The performer cries out:  
"O-din! O-din!"

The performer's own national accent should be prominent.

KF  
1989

## Fluxus Balance Piece for Mieko Shiomi

A bowl of water is placed on one side of a balance.

The bowl is filled with water exactly equal in weight to whatever is on the other side of the balance.

KF  
1991

## Precinct

Construct a rough slab, cube, or table of natural stone or wood.

Invite people to place hand-made models or objects made of wood or clay on the surface.

KF  
1991

## Exhibition

Arrange an exhibition where a curtain conceals each work of art. Next to the curtain is posted the description of the piece. On payment of a fee, an attendant pulls the curtain aside to display the work. After the viewer has finished examining the work, the curtain is replaced.

The fee may be the same for all works, or it may vary according to size of work, fame of work, market value of work, insurance value of work, etc.

KF  
1991

## Marching Band

A marching band carries its instruments and sings or hums the music.

KF  
1991

## New Shoes Dance Theater

Organize a short dance piece. Create choreography to be danced to any classical or modern music. Rehearse in traditional dance costume or leotards. For the public presentation of this work, clothing will be the same as at therehearsal.

There will be one change: all performers will dance in new boots or new men's black dress shoes. Even the women will wear men's shoes. If the dance is performed more than once, use completely new shoes or boots for every concert.

KF  
1991

## Selection Event

Prior to the performance, the director selects music and a kind of dancing. The music is played through once for the cast. The cast is invited to conceive of a kind of dance they will perform to the music after only one hearing. No rehearsal takes place.

At the time of the performance, a large paper screen is stretched across the stage or the front of the hall so that when performers stand behind it, only their calves and feet are visible. All the male performers stand behind the screen.

A female performer is selected by some arbitrary method. The female performer selects her dance partner by choosing the pair of feet that she likes best. The two performers dance together to the music.

KF  
1991

## Stage Fright Event

Wear a costume that covers almost all of the body from the top of the head to the knees. Only the legs from the knees down should be visible. Examples of the costume: a large, broad-brimmed hat, a scarf, a huge sweater with a very high neck, and a bulky wool skirt; or, a bundle of layered wool blankets; or, a specially sewn sack with holes cut for the hands and legs. The audience may not see the performer and the performer may not see the audience.

Walk out on stage or into the hall, moving about slowly during the allocated time. At the end of the time, two or three cast members come out to guide the performer off.

This may be performed as a solo, or it may be performed by several or many performers who will slowly bump into each other or the audience as they move through the piece. Music may be played, or the event may take place in silence.

KF  
1991

## Alchemical Theater

Assemble four elements.

Place the elements.

Act upon the elements.

KF  
1992

## Bartholomew in Munich

Green glass bottles and clear glass bottles. Fill the clear bottles with plaster of Paris. Fill the green bottles with salt.

Display on a small wooden shelf.

KF  
1992

## Bird Call

Make a telephone call to a bird. If you do not know a bird who has a telephone, make a telephone call in which you make bird noises.

KF  
1992

## Family Planning Event

Get pregnant for 18 months and have twins.

KF  
1992

## Folk Dance

The dancers perform a traditional folk dance while dancing on stilts. If there are several dancers and some feel avantgarde, they may use stilts of a different height than the other dancers.

KF  
1992

## Magic Trick #2

Walk on stage with a sledge hammer, an egg and a small tape recorder. Place the egg on one side of the stage. Place the tape recorder on the opposite side of the stage. Turn the recorder on in the playback mode. Walk back to the egg.

Pick up the hammer. Raise it high. Wait 30 seconds and smash the egg. Stand and wait.

After 15 seconds, the tape recorder plays the noise of a chicken.

KF  
1993

## Magic Trick #7

Walk on stage with a big sheet of paper and a magician's hat. Hold the paper up to the audience to show that it has been painted or printed with the word FLUXUS.

Tear the paper into pieces and drop them into the hat. Shake them.

Reach into the hat and pull out a large cloth that reads,

THE END.

KF  
1993

## **A Whispered History**

Take a plain wooden table with no metal or plastic surfaces.

Unpainted wood is best.

Get two ordinary shoes.

Place the shoes on the table.

Fill the left shoe with butter.

Fill the right shoe with salt.

KF  
1994

## **Centre Piece**

Imagine a life.

Live it.

KF  
2003

## **Decapitalism**

A store where people can bring things and leave them.

No one can buy anything.

KF  
2019

## **Post-Calvinist Art**

Arrange an exhibition.

Close the space and keep it locked for the duration of the show.

Outside the exhibition hall, post a sign with this text:

“There is a wonderful exhibition inside. You are not allowed to see it.”

KF  
2019

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*Ken Friedman*  
*92 Events*  
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