This is a chapter in piero scaruffi’s “A Visual History of the Visual Arts”: http://www.scaruffi.com/art/history
The Space Age

• Happenings/ Performance Art
  • Gutai Bijutsu Kyokai (1954, Japan)
    – Outdoor installations, theatrical events and art-making events
  • Allan Kaprow (1927, USA): "Eighteen Happenings in Six Parts" (1959), the first major "happening"
    – The visual arts must move towards theater
    – Influenced by John Cage
  • George Maciunas (1931, Europe and USA): Fluxus movement to bridge art and life (1962)
The Space Age

- Happenings/ Performance Art
  - Allan Kaprow (1927, USA)

"Eighteen Happenings in Six Parts" (1959)

"Fluids" (1967) that leaves absolutely nothing behind (the community builds huge ice structures that melt)

"Eat" (1964)
The Space Age

- Happenings/ Performance Art
  - George Brecht (1926, USA): Fluxus

"Water Yam" (1963), 70 event-scores together, created over a four-year period from 1959 to 1963
The Space Age

• Happenings/ Performance Art
  • Gustav Metzger (1926, Britain)
    • published the manifesto "Auto-Destructive Art" (1959)
    • lectured at the London Architectural Association (1964), followed by a "happening" of destruction of artworks

Metzger creating a piece that self-destroyed after a few minutes (1961)
The Space Age

- Happenings/ Performance Art
  - Claes Oldenburg’s Ray Gun Spex, a series of happenings (1960) with Jim Dine, Al Hansen, Kaprow, Whitman, etc
  - Judith Malina's and Julian Beck's Living Theatre: "Paradise Now" (1968)

"Paradise Now" (1968): the actors provoke arguments until the audience leaves
The Space Age

“Evening of Happenings” @ Reuben Gallery (Jan 1960)

Jim Dine: “Car Crash 1” (Nov 1960)

Robert Whitman: "American Moon" (Nov 1961)
The Space Age

Claes Oldenburg & Jim Dine organize the “Ray Gun Spex” happening at the Judson Church (Feb 1960)

Robert Morris and Yvonne Rainer perform "See Saw"

Simone Forti and Patty Oldenburg perform "Rollers"
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Happenings @ Reuben Gallery (1961)

Claes Oldenburg: “Circus Ironworks/Fotodeath” (Feb 1961)

Robert Whitman: "American Moon" (Nov 1961)
Judson Dance Theater

July 1962: 17 students of Robert Ellis Dunn's dance class perform at the Judson Memorial Church in Greenwich Village including Yvonne Rainer, Deborah Hay, David Gordon, Lucinda Childs, Steve Paxton, Trisha Brown
The Space Age

May 1963: Yam Festival month-long series of happenings organized by George Brecht and Robert Watts at George Segal’s farm including Allan Kaprow, John Cage, Al Hansen, Dick Higgins, La Monte Young, Karlheinz Stockhausen, Ray Johnson…
The Space Age

“9 Evenings of Theatre and Engineering” (1966) with 10 artists and 30+ engineers

Billy Kluver
The Space Age

“9 Evenings of Theatre and Engineering”

Robert Rauschenberg's "Open Score"

John Cage's "Variations VII" for 10 telephones and intercepted radio waves

Yvonne Rainer: "Carriage Discreteness" for remote-controlled dancers

Alex Hay: "Grass Field", music generated by brainwaves and body movements
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• Dadaism
  – Marcel Duchamp (1887, France)
    • The readymade: "In 1913 I had the happy idea to fasten a bicycle wheel to a kitchen stool and watch it turn."
    • Interactive and kinetic
The Space Age

• Conceptual Art
  – Marcel Duchamp (1887, France)
    • “Fountain” (1917)
    • “Tu m” (1918) with safety pins and nut and bolt
    • “LHOOQ” (1919) a readymade Mona Lisa with moustaches
The Space Age

- Conceptual Art
  - Piero Manzoni (1933, Italy): “Merda d'Artista” (1961) - cans containing shit
  - Robert Morris: “Box with the Sound of its Own Making” (1961)
  - Fluxus (George Maciunas et al): “Piano Activities” (1962) - a piano performance that results in the destruction of the piano
  - Nam June Paik (1932, Korea): “Random Access” (1963) - chance (the audience decides which tapes to play)
The Space Age

- Conceptual Art
  - Fakir Musafar/ Roland Loomis (1930, USA): masochist art/ ordeal art

14-Inch Waist Belt (1952)
Clothes Pin Fans (1950)
Suspension (1964)
The Space Age

- Conceptual Art
  - Fakir Musafar/ Roland Loomis (1930, USA): masochist art/ ordeal art

Clamps (1964)

Chest Daggers 1980
The Space Age

- Conceptual Art
- Piero Manzoni (1933, Italy):

“Merda d'Artista” (1961) - cans containing shit, on sale for the same price as gold

Living Sculpture (1961), the artist signs the body of a model who then becomes his artwork (forever belonging to him)
The Space Age

• Conceptual Art
  – Robert Rauschenberg (1925)
    “Oracle” (1965), interactive installation (with Billy Kluver) made of scrap metal and wireless microphone systems
    “Open Score” (1966), tennis match in the dark

“Oracle” (1965), interactive installation (with Billy Kluver) made of scrap metal and wireless microphone systems
“Open Score” (1966), tennis match in the dark
The Space Age

• Conceptual Art
  – John Baldessari (1931)

“Painting for Kubler” (1968)
The Space Age

• Conceptual Art
  – Cy Twombly (1928)
    • Chinese scrolls, graffiti and comic strips
    • Dedicated to Graecoroman themes

“Free Wheeler” (1955)
“Narcissus” (1960)
The Space Age

• Conceptual Art
  – Cy Twombly

“Discourses on Commodus” (1963)
The Space Age

• Conceptual Art
  – Robert Whitman (1935, USA)

"Two Holes of Water- 3" (1966), videos and closed-circuit television projections of live performances projected from seven cars
The Space Age

- Conceptual Art
  - Robert Whitman (1935, USA)

"Shower" (1965), projection of a showering woman inside a shower curtain

"Prune Flat (1964), theater piece that combines video and live actors"
The Space Age

• Conceptual Art
  – Dick Higgins (1938, Britain): Fluxus

"The Thousand Symphonies" (1968): an orchestra plays the score created by the bullet holes that have been shot by a machine gun into compositional
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• Conceptual Art
  – Joseph Kosuth (1945), USA

“Five Words in Green Neon” (1965)

“A Conditioning of Consciousness” (1986)

“One and Three Chairs” (1965)
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