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Laima Lauckaite Surgailiene

art critic and historian,

member of the Lithuanian AICA section

18 Rue Gruodzio

4910 Utena

Lituanie

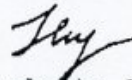
Title of the report: *Fluxus Leader George Maciunas
and his Influence on Lithuanian Performance*
(an abstract of the report for the theme
Gesture and Performance)

This report deals with Oriental traditions in George Maciunas' Fluxus activities in Europe and the USA (New York) in the sixties and seventies and with Maciunas' impact on Lithuanian art of the late eighties, esp. on the emergence of performances here in the Soviet period.

Maciunas was strongly influenced by Oriental aesthetics, Chinese and Japanese art, architecture, poetry, Zen philosophy. He called Fluxus performances neo-haiku theatre; spontaneity, gesture, short form were the main features of his happenings or 'events'.

Maciunas was of Lithuanian descent; he had contacts with some people in Lithuania, in particular with the music historian Prof. Vytautas Landsbergis (later a well-known political leader in the struggle for Lithuanian independence), who was the first to introduce Maciunas' activities in this country. Under the influence of Maciunas' ideas the first performances in Lithuania were held by young composers Sarunas Nakas and Gintaras Sodeika in the summers of 1986-1989 in the provincial town of Anyksciai, because in Soviet times such activities were persecuted in Vilnius, the capital of the republic.

This development of events is a particular case of Eastern traditions reaching a country in Central Europe indirectly - by way of their impact on contemporary Western art.



Laima Lauckaite Surgailiene

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