

Caterina Lazzarin

The Contribution of Italy to Fluxus

Italy played an essential role in the spread of Fluxus, so much so that it became a virtual second home for Fluxist artists.

This paper focuses on the history of Fluxus in Italy, particularly the production of *Editions*, which characterised the artistic movement in Italy. The historical artists of Fluxus, including Joseph Beuys, George Brecht, John Cage, Eric Andersen and many others, produced multiples, artists' books and graphics in Italy. Thanks to the low production cost and easy distribution, *Editions* proved to be a strategic choice for the dissemination of the Fluxus movement. *Editions* guaranteed the accessibility and democratisation of the artworks: they thereby completely lost their untouchable *aura*, their role was deconstructed and their reception by the public also changed.

The paper introduces the figure of Rosanna Chiessi (1934-2016), an Italian gallery owner and publisher, who, by way of her publishing house, *Pari&Dispari Editori*, promoted the Fluxus movement in Italy. She was a foundational personage not only for Fluxus but also for Italian conceptual art, visual poetry and the performing arts. Chiessi's archive preserves fifty years of activity and still represents a fundamental source for the study of Fluxus in Italy. Her feminine, creative and committed revolution embodied how life and art can exist without borders.

The essay concludes with an overview of the legacy of Fluxus today in Italy. 2022 marked the 60th anniversary of the *FLuXuS Internationale FesTsPiELe NEUEsTER MUSiK Festival* in Wiesbaden. Sixty years filled with nonconformist experimentation, research and interdisciplinarity. Many celebrations of the Fluxus movement were held in Italy on this anniversary. This paper provides an overview of this homage, a strong signal that interest in the movement is still alive and relevant.