

# Ben Patterson

## A CARNIVAL OF CLOWNS, ANIMALS AND RELIGIONS

from February 27 to April 3, 2009

opening **February 27 at 6:30 p.m.**

with artist performance: *The golden age of Fluxus*

Galleria Michela Rizzo – Treviso

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In collaboration with UnimediaModern, Genova



Galleria Michela Rizzo Treviso presents, from **February 28 to April 3 2009**, *A carnival of Clowns, Animals and Religious*, a personal show by the *Fluxus* artist **Ben Patterson** realized in collaboration with **UnimediaModern, Genova**.

On Friday 27, during the opening, the artist will perform: *The golden age of Fluxus*.

The subjects that animate the works in this show are carnival figures. They represent in some way the "Carnival" of the historical events that characterize our times. With his works the artist becomes ironic and acute witness of our times: from II World War, Auschwitz, Hiroshima, to Barak Obama, passing through the first ascent of Mt. Everest and ending with the first landing on the moon or, simply thinking about Gandhi, Mandela, Martin Luther King, Stalin, Pol Pot or Mugabe. Clowns, animals and religious become medium that helps us smiling and hoping in this time.

Ben Patterson was born in Pittsburgh, USA in 1934. He first studied piano with his mother and violin with his father. Later, at the University of Michigan he studied double-bass, composition and conducting...and became skilled enough to be "first" double-bassist and/or assistant conductor with several smaller symphony orchestras in Canada, the USA and Germany. In 1960, during a visit to Cologne, Germany, he met John Cage. Patterson says, that this meeting was the most important encounter of his artistic life...overnight he was "converted" and "freed" to consider new and radical concepts for making art. Two years later, in 1962, he was critically involved with the "birth" of Fluxus in Wiesbaden...and for the next several years, made important contributions to the Fluxus legend. Around 1968, he "dropped-out" of the New York "art scene" to lead an "ordinary life"...raise a family and make "real politics". 20 years later, he returned to the "art world"...and discovered that he was still known as a "Fluxus artist".

Now, since the beginning of this third phase of his life (1988-89), he has been busy creating and presenting objects, installations, texts, musics, videos and performances throughout the world...from New York to New Zealand, from Helsinki to Patagonia, from London to Tokyo, etc. In 1996 he travelled to Okandukaseibe, Namibia to establish his "Museum for the Sub-Conscious". In 2004 he made a 7 week tour of performances with the Trans-Siberian Railroad through Russia, Mongolia and China to arrive on Mt. Fuji (Japan) to celebrate his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. During these last 5 years, Ben Patterson has presented performances and/or exhibitions in Amorbach (Germany), Leipzig, Dresden, Frankfurt/M, Paris, Asolo (Italy), Genova, Hannover, Kassel, Ghent (Belgium), Bern, Geneve, Zürich, Basel, Potsdam, Prague, Krakow, Nantes, London, Madrid/Saville, Valencia, Barcelona and Tallin. He now looks forward to his first museum "retropective", planned to take place at the Contemporary Art Museum, Houston, Texas in the fall of 2010.