

A CULTURAL NAVIGATION INTO THE WELL BEING OF THE XXI CENTURY



In early January of 1990, in Rome, Carlo De Marco, dean of the Medical School of the University of Rome "La Sapienza", proposed to Sandro Dernini, coordinator of the 1992 Christopher Columbus Consortium and to David Ecker, coordinator of the International Society for the Advancement of living Traditions in Art (ISALTA) and in charge for the New York University PhD. Art Education Program, to develop a joint inter-institutions cultural navigation project addressed to the well being in the XXI Century. The idea was to organize in 1992, on the occasion of the 500th Anniversary of the Columbus 's landing in the Americas, an international well being and reconciliation conference in the Island of S. Pietro, off of Sardinia.

Dean Carlo De Marco, School of Medicine, Sapienza University of Rome

I should mention that our focus on well-being was the result of two preparatory meetings in the office of Professor Carlo De Marco of the University of Rome in January and June 1990. I should also mention that the lovely setting of San Pietro Island as the site of the first Forum was not an arbitrary choice. The members of the Christopher Columbus Consortium felt that this particular location would have deep political significance. For many of us, the initial idea of cultural navigation led quickly to the question of cultural identity. And for geo-political reasons, what better place than to locate our deliberations in the center of the western Mediterranean Sea. San Pietro Island was selected not only because of the amusing story of how Columbus allegedly altered the ship's compass to mislead his crew into continuing on his intended course to Tunisia. More seriously, Sardinia provides a symbolic setting for fresh attempts at reconciliation between the peoples of the East and West as well as peoples of the North and South. The question of the cultural identity of Sardinia itself poses a challenge. The nutritional, social, ethical and economic aspects of well-being will undoubtedly receive critical attention in the proceedings of the Forum. But surely the artistic and aesthetic dimensions of life as we live it must figure in any formulation of a comprehensive vision of well-being. The arts make visible our cultural identity and provide a direct measure of the vitality of the culture in which a particular art object or event is embedded. It follows that the arts have a special role to play in relation to the well-being of the members of each of the cultures of the world.

David W. Ecker, New York University 1992



School of Medicine, Sapienza University of Rome, Rome 1990

Toward a Change of Route for the Well Being in the XXI Century



Sandro Dernini, David Ecker, Giancarlo Schiaffini, Rome 1990



Giancarlo Schiaffini, Lynne Kanter, Sandro Dernini, Rome 1990

The Departure of the C. Columbus Italian Telematics Team



Glauco Benigni



Ciro Ciriaco, Loreto Papadia, Enzo Ciarravano, Francesco Franci



Pippo di Marca, Giancarlo Schiaffini, Giuseppe Salerno, Metateatro, Rome 1990

Christopher Columbus Voyage in the Planet of Art



Mariapia Marsala, Micaela Serino, Sandro Dernini



Loreto Papadia, Micaela Serino, Sandro Dernini, Maria Pia Marsala, Calcata -Rome 1990

Plexus Black Box Ethnoreality



Frans Evers, Tanja Gerstle, Criss. Smith, W. Brugman, Amsterdam 1990, photo by R. Jansen

Plexus Black Box Deconstruction



Maria Pia Marsala



Sandro Dernini, Rome 1990

Plexus Black Box Rematerialization



Sandro Dernini and Gaetano Brundu



Gaetano Brundu dressed with his artwork, Cagliari, 1990

Plexus Black Box Voyage



Artwork by Gaetano Brundu, Carloforte, Sardinia 1990



Sandro Dernini



Ubaldo Badas and Sandro Dernini



Artwork by Gaetano Brundu, Villanovaforru, Sardinia 1990

1992 C. Columbus Voyage in the Planet of Art, Act III: Plexus Black Box



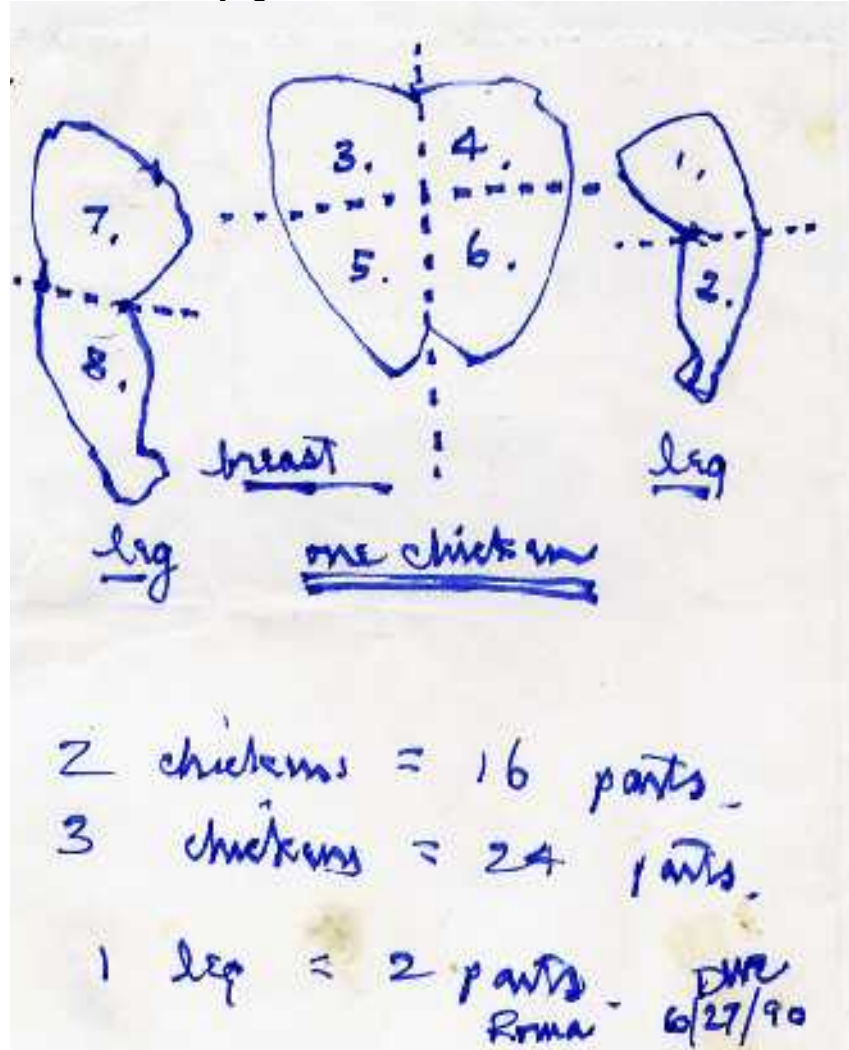
Teatro Ridotto del Colosseo, Rome 1990, graphics by Micaela Serino

Plexus Black Box Modular Construction

As an act of juxtaposition in 1989, in Rome, at our performance in which we closed the Black Box, I reopened it because I was looking for a loose end, the loose end that was perhaps already in the box. Because I thought that the story was not finished, the first phase of the development of Plexus had maybe come to an end and I also believed that in any repetitive process however varied its outcomes you have to make on purpose a mistake in order to let the end out. In '89, I felt that there was no time to close the box, the story was incomplete. That many contributions were still lost, they were still at the sea, they had not been delivered yet, in order to close the box the whole body had to be in there and we knew that legs were missing, and bits and pieces of "la macchina corporea," the body machine of Plexus. Modular construction is a design and choreography of energy: it is an organizational principle and it is a strategy, for what I call a design and a choreography of energy. A modular construction, as it happened to take place in the art cooperas, there were so many different individuals coming from many different fields and specialties that had to be organized in time and space, and they had to be organized also in a story telling way so a modular construction is an organizational principle by which every fragment, every subject, every object that takes part in the total generic energy explosion and is guaranteed its own identity. I maybe can only say it in a more poetic or esoteric sense, if a drop of water joins the ocean, it does not lose its characteristics. This is the principal of modular construction whatever effort or excess energy spent in the process will find its constructive expression of possibilities in the overall work. Well, a modular construction is a facilitating process that allows the individual energies to pass through and to gather a purity of energy which maybe can be approached by talking about light.

Willem Brugman, Amsterdam

1992 C. Columbus Voyage in the Planet of Art, Act III: Plexus Black Box



Artwork by David Ecker



Artwork by Roberto M. Federici, Rome 1990

1992 C. Columbus Voyage in the Planet of Art, Act III: Plexus Black Box



Ridotto del Teatro Colosseo, Rome 1990, photos by Adriano Mordenti/A.G.F.

1992 C. Columbus Voyage in the Planet of Art, Act III: Plexus Black Box



F. Bertuccioli, F. Shifreen, L. Kanter, G. Schiaffini, Rome 1990, photos by Adriano Mordenti/A.G.F.

Plexus Black Box Team



Frans Evers



Lynne Kanter



Willem Brugman



Antonio Caboni



Andrea Portas



Karl Geiringer



Frank Shifreen



Antonello Dessi



David Ecker



Anna Piccioni



Victor Ibanez



Odita Okechukwu



Piero Cianflone



Carlo Cusatelli



Vittorio Terracina



Jeroen Heuvel



Elsa Rizzi



Mauro Brusà

S.Dernini and M.P. Marsala

Photos by Mauro Brusà

Ridotto del Colosseo, Rome
1990

1992 C. Columbus Voyage in the Planet of Art, Act III: Plexus Black Box



Ridotto del Colosseo, Rome 1990

Elsa Rizzi

1992 C. Columbus Voyage in the Planet of Art, Act III: Plexus Black Box



Ridotto Del Colosseo theatre, Rome 1990

1992 C. Columbus Voyage in the Planet of Art, Act III: Plexus Black Box



Piero Cianflone



Frank Shifreen

photos by Adriano Mordenti/A.G.F



J. Heuvel, W. Brugman, A. Portas, F. Evers, C. Ciriaco, L. Kanter, R. Federici, A. Caboni, K. Geiringer, A. Dessi, A. Piccioni, A. Lindsay, P. Cianflone, E. Rizzi, G. Schiaffini, Ridotto del Colosseo, Rome 1990, photo by Victor Ibanez

ELISABETH : La Caravella dell' Arte

CELT
EDIZIONI
SARDEGNA

PLEXUS

Carloforte 4 Luglio 1990 !

ISOLA DI SAN PIETRO

fishing
&
eating

ART



ELECTROMAGNETIC WELL BEINGS

1992

FROM SARDINIA:

ELISABETH BOAT INVITES YOU TO TRAVEL IN
THE TELEMATIC SEA OF NATURE, SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGY ART & TRADITIONS:
DISCOVER YOUR OWN NEW WORLD (S)

PLEXUS
BLACK BOX: È UNA
CAPSULA CONTENENTE
FRAMMENTI DELLA VOSTRA
EPOCA DA ESSERE
COLLOCATA NEL
SOTTOSUOLO E IN FONDO
AL MARE.



Graphics by Micaela Serino, 1990

On December 29 of 1990, at the Teatro in Trastevere, in Rome, it was presented to Mons. Dante Balboni, director of the High Institute for the Sacred Art in the Vatican, the historical documentation of Plexus activities, organized by Sandro Dernini in time capsules, from 1992 to 1990, as a primary source for his Ph.D. dissertation on "*Plexus Black Box*".

The Delivery to the Vatican of the Plexus Black Box



R. Smiraglia, E. Rizzi, M. Serino, F. Bertuccioli L. Biondi, M. Brusà, G. Schiaffini, A. Abbondanza, M. Pia Marsala, Mons. Dante Balboni, S. Dernini, S. Fiorenza, S. Bertuccioli, F. Nuzzo



A. Abbondanza, Micaela Serino, M. Pia Marsala, S. Dernini, G. Schiaffini, Simone Bertuccioli, Elsa Rizzi, Mauro Brusà, Teatro in Trastevere, Rome, 1990, photos by Gabriele De Marco

Plexus Black Box Time Capsules



BB & B Studios, Rome 1990, photos by Mauro Brusà

PLEXUS PASSPORT N. 2

1992 Columbus Time

A quarterly journal Edizionali CELT Numero zero - December 1990

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0001 Ubaldo Badas
0002 Giuliano Vitori
0003 Giancarlo Schiaffini
0004 Maria Pia Marsala
0005 Fabrizio Fabi Bandini
0006 Fabrizio Bertuccioli
0007 Arturo Lindsay
0008 Paolo Damiani
0009 Sebastiano Tronconia
0010 Vico Corallo
0011 Enrica Basilisco
0012 Nicola Marletta
0013 Sandro Cossì
0014 Silvia Bruschini
0015 Sara Ciaron
0016 Loreto Papadila-CAST
0017 Ciro Ciriacono
0018 Piero Cianfrone
0019 Mario D'Angeli
0020 Antonello Dessi
0021 Andrea Portas
0022 Frank Shifreen
0023 Elsa Rizzi
0024 Vittorio Terracina
0025 Lynne Kanter
0026 Frans Evers
0027 Anna Ficcion
0028 Moleno Pavich
0029 Jeroen-Kauvel
0030 Antonio Caboni
0031 Susan Feldman
0032 David W. Ecker
0033 Xavier Lindsay
0034 Carlo Gusalelli

0035 E. Okechukwu Odita
0036 The 1992 C. C. C.
0037 Mauro Brusà
0038 Guillaume Brugman
0039 Sandro Dornini
0040 Brerley Millman
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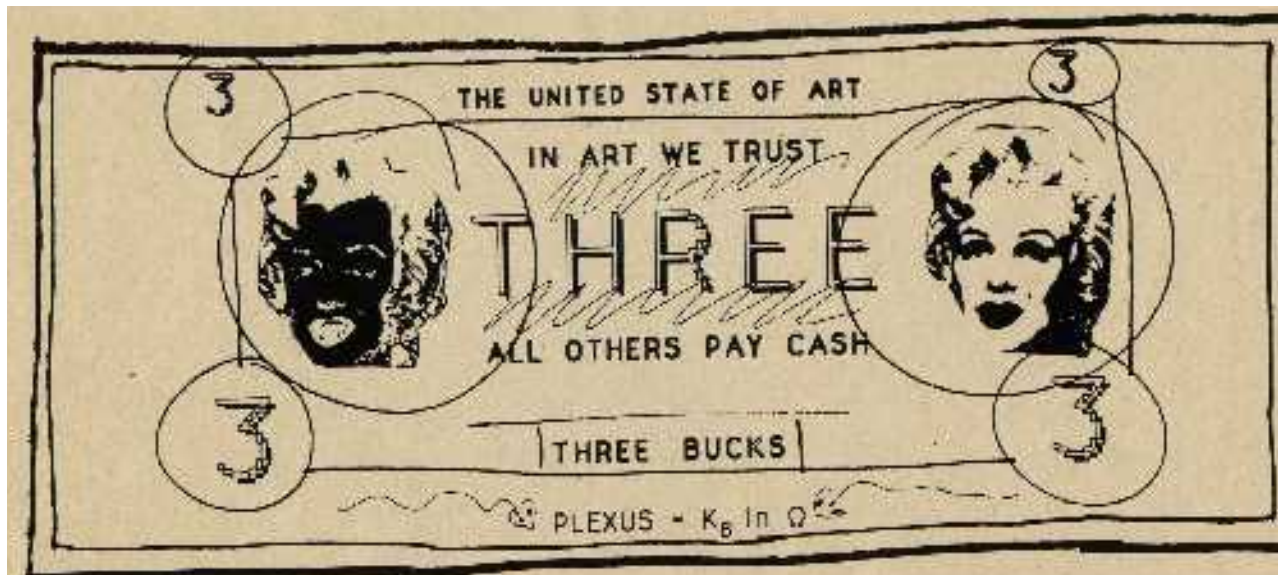
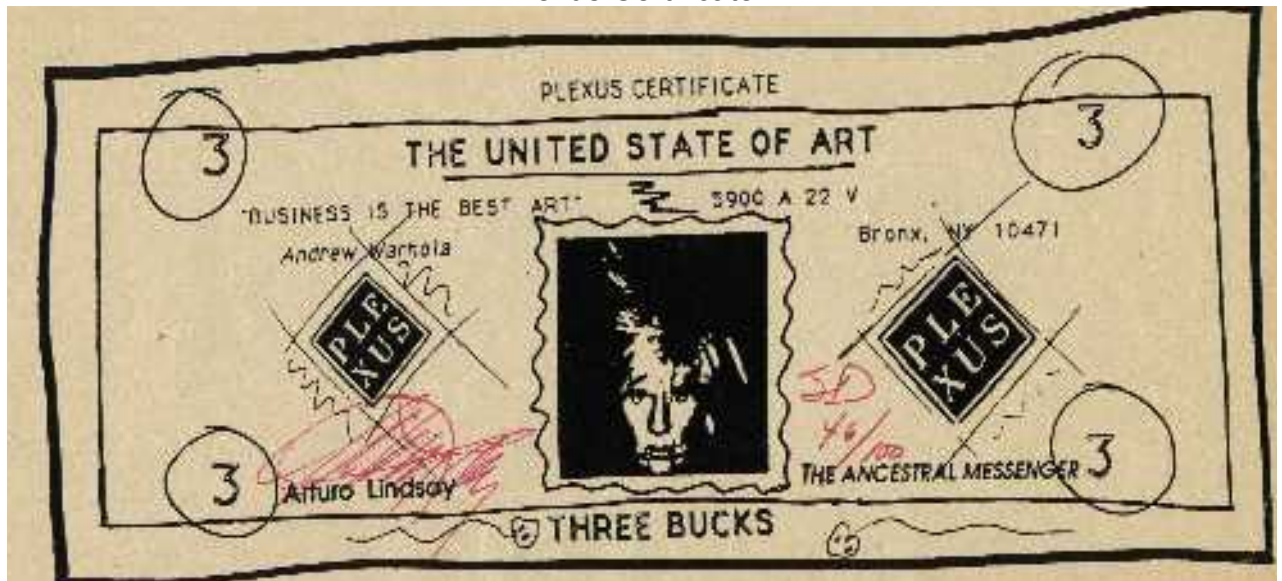
by FAX

0000 George Chaikin
0000 Kate Chaikin
0000 David Boyle
0000 Miguel Algarin
0000 Franco Meloni
0000 Anna Sabz
0000 Valeria Meloni
0000 Ivan Della Torre
0000 Langouste M'Dow

0000 Spazio A. Cagliari
0000 The Shuttle Theatre N.Y.
0000 Rivington School, N.Y.
0000 C.U.A.N.D.C., N.Y.
0000 Sound Unity, N.Y.
0000 SOI
0000 Società Italiana Olografica
0000 Teatro Noleggi - Roma
0000 Renato Mambor gruppo
0000 Trousse-RM
0000 L.ACA
0000 Teatro in Trastevere RM
0000 Magazzini Generali -RM
0000 Metateatro-RM
0000 Beat 72-RM
0000 Nuove Forme Sonore RM
0000 Cast, S.c.n. Roma
0000 Studio Euro, Roma
0000 BR&B Studios, Roma
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0000 College, Lancaster, PA

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Plexus Certificate



Artwork by Arturo Lindsay, Atlanta 1990

Plexus Card



Graphics by Micaela Serino, Rome 1990