

Venice, May 28, 2007



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OBJECT MANDALA FLOOR PIECES WITH WORDS

An Exhibition by Ay-O
Curated by Caterina Gualco

Archivio Emily Harvey
San Polo 387, second floor
30125 Venice, Italy

Opening: Thursday, June 7, 2007, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Until July 31, 2007
Wednesday to Saturday, 5:00—8:00 p.m.

Ay-O's "Rainbow Room" and surprising "Finger Boxes" represented Japan at the Venice Biennale of 1966, and he also took part in the *Ubi Fluxus Ibi Motus* show of the 1990 Biennale. Ay-O sees all of his work as part of a systematic study of the human senses — including the "sixth sense" — and the ways they interact with objects. His "Object Mandalas" consist of objects from daily life and personal experience, arbitrarily distributed in space in patterns determined by the simplest of grids. At times the objects hang from the ceiling, and at others are arranged on tables, or on canvases, or on the floor. Ay-O seems less interested in the nature of individual man-made objects than in the simple and finally clamorous fact of their very existence. The mystery they contain is what these works hope to enable us to experience.

The current exhibition is dedicated to Emily Harvey and also provides the framework for three memorial performance events: *Homage to Emily Harvey*, in the course of the opening reception; *Homage to Emmett Williams*, Sunday, June 10, 2007, 8:00 p.m., Taverna Remer, in Campiello del Remer, on the Grand Canal, between the Rialto bridge and Ca' d'Oro; *Homage to Fluxus Friends Who Have Gone to Heaven or Hell*, Saturday, June 16, 2007, 8:00 p.m., "in some famous or unknown piazza, starting out from Archivio Emily Harvey." These subtly structured events are a quiet and playful mix of meditation, concentration, and the celebration of good times spent in meaningful, creative company. The artist and the performers who work with him invite the audience to participate.