

Geoffrey Hendricks & Sur Rodney (Sur)
2002 YEAR END MAILING
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Every year we have attempted to compose a calendar that highlights events in our lives together. Usually we start by reviewing our date books. This year Sur began by gleaning a calendar of media events he found in a free Montreal weekly newspaper MIRROR at the Montreal bus terminal while we waited for our bus to New York City. Due to a northeastern snowstorm heading towards upstate New York, all buses going state-side Christmas night were canceled.

December 2002

A man in South Dakota, who joked during the president's visit to Sioux Falls that "God might speak to the world through a burning Bush," was sentenced to 37 months in prison.

Joe Jones instruments are restored to working order.

Sur visits Carolee Schneemann and learns she is giving up her loft on West 29th Street. He suggests that she have a brass plaque put on the building to landmark it. From her loft sale materials are found for gifts. For Michelle Stuart a vulva-like seedpod for her birthday. Leaving Michelle's party we find ourselves trapped in an elevator along with a wonderful group of friends and strangers, all with cell phones. After an hour more-or-less, we both delight in being rescued from the elevator by the fine officers of the local Fire Department.

We organize a truckload of artwork for shipping to the Mead Art Museum in Amherst, MA (ahead of an unforeseen snowstorm.) *Critical Mass: Happenings, Fluxus, Performance, Intermedia and Rutgers University, 1958-1972*, will open at the Mead Art Museum in February. By chance, the exhibition coincides with Geoff's 50th Reunion on campus, another celebration.

Geoff, Sara Seagull and Ingrid Nyeboe all work to bring together the *Critical Mass* book project, the catalog to accompany the exhibition. As our pool of visual and text material expands so do our editing considerations and production deadlines.

We spend a few days with Sur's mother Jean in Montreal, with occasional visits from Sur's elder brother David. We visit Sur's dad Desmond in Ville LaSalle, bringing a belated birthday gift for his library. Sur over the years has been building a library of books on Black photographers for his photographer father.

Back in New York on the 28th we rent Todd Solondz's film *Fiction/Non Fiction* for Sur's birthday entertainment. We were very impressed with the themes provided in two

short stories. The dramatic sequences were a surprise. We recommend it highly!

We spend a quiet New Years eve with Alison Knowles and family (Jessie, Josh, Hannah, Joe, with Zoe-for-a-minute-right-before-midnight). After dinner we watch a broadcast of Times Square on the television, followed by a Margaret Cho video.

January 2002

President Bush choked on a pretzel and fell down.

New Year's Day we visit Robbin Ami Silverberg and András Böröcz out in Brooklyn. They are preparing to build new living and studio space. Geoff with Rutgers graduate student Wendy White creates a window installation for Art in General's exhibition *Looking for Mr. Fluxus*.

Minette's cat Velvet, adopted the previous month, is now living on Greenwich Street.

February 2002

The New York Times reported the Bush Administration would create an "inspection crisis" to justify an attack on Iraq.

We travel to Genoa to participate in performances for the exhibition *The Fluxus Constellation* at the Villa Croce in celebration of the 40th Anniversary of Fluxus, beautifully brought together by Sandra Solimano and Caterina Gualco. Our first two days we make a four city bus tour organized by Ben Patterson. At each venue performances are staged for our Fluxus friends. Sur returns to NYC a day early to attend the Memorial Celebration for Minette, at the Theater for a New City, organized by Adrian Milton with presenters, Agosto Machado; Mssrs. David McDermott & Peter McGough; Christopher Tanner; Steve Watkins; and Sur. Geoff stays on in Genoa, and as the Flux Navy, does headstands in the prow of his water filled boat. Francesco Conz takes photographs. Geoff joins Eric Andersen, Philip Corner, Alison Knowles, Larry Miller, Phoebe Neville, Ann Noël, Ben Patterson, and Emmett Williams in other performances, as well as daily feasts together. As Chris Thompson's reader, Geoff hears him defend his Ph.D. thesis, *Making Felt: Joseph Beuys and the Dalai Lama - an un-organizing otherness*, in Caterina's office. Ben Vautier joins us the last day with the opening of his exhibition of "Cactuses" at Caterina Gualco's.

We make donations to WBAI in New York City. Membership supported radio is our alternative to mainstream media broadcasting. We value their programming alternative highly. (99.5 FM)

Geoff discovers, amongst his late fathers papers, notes on the hour of his birth, 13:15 EST on July 30th, 1931.

March 2002

A review of Department of Energy documents revealed Bush had made recommendations from a trade group representing America's oil barons national policy.

We visit the Whitney Museum for a member's tour of the Biennial only to discover, that we'd arrived on Kids Tour Day. We certainly had no complaints, it only added to the value of our experience.

April 2002

An American fighter pilot dropped bombs on Canadian troops when it heard gunshots and got spooked.

We celebrate Emmett Williams's birthday after his show at Emily Harvey's gallery in New York with an evening of performances on the 4th. This is the same day as grandson Galen's birthday. The next day we drive to Bethesda, MD to see Galen and family. Then the following day we return to New York to see Emmett perform with candles and shadows in one of the screening rooms at the Anthology Film Archives.

We give a slide presentation about our lives together at New York University for a performance conference panel organized by Laurie Beth Clark & Michael Peterson. We agreed to talk about our being a creative same sex couple collaborating in life. We had come prepared for double screen projections, only a single projector was used. This made for a very unusual conversation between ourselves and with the audience. Individual images needed to be projected forwards and backwards while talking about our life together.

Amelia's 2nd birthday is on the 10th.

David Martin and Fenn, our neighbors on Cape Breton Island, visit us at Greenwich Street on their way back to Nova Scotia from a trip to North Carolina. David is the carpenter who rebuilt our Cape Breton farmhouse (as well as a remodeled Fish House & Pig House for guests).

May 2002

The U.S. renounced its obligations to co-operate with the International Criminal Court (ICC)

The anthrax strain mailed around the U.S. last year was traced back to a cow from Texas.

A government watchdog group came up with documents suggesting the U.S. military was planning to develop biological weapons in violation of international treaties and federal laws.

Geoff performs a headstand on a beach in Manasquan, NJ as part of an event organized by Eileen Torpey. Rhonda Zwilling visits from New Mexico for an exhibition at ACE gallery that previewed some new work of hers in a large group survey. The gallery is conveniently located two blocks away. Rhonda is thrilled with Geoff's cooking.

Sur curates and installs artists books by Brian Buczak, Geoffrey Hendricks and Andreas Senser, for a Book Arts show organized by Norman Shapiro for the Leslie-Lohmann Gay Art Foundation's Gallery with the effective help of the gallery's director Wayne Snellen.

Adrian Milton arranges for access to pack Minette's Brooklyn apartment. David McDermott discovers and plays a Duke Ellington 78rpm record on Minette's old gramophone while Sur and others attempt to dust and clean up the apartment, left in shambles by the police and a robbery. The apartment windows are opened and cleaned for the first time in more than a decade.

Geoff does a headstand at former student Fran Morgan's memorial in Montclair NJ. We visit Naushon for Nye's 70th birthday (another headstand) and to attend Sara Bursac's wedding. Heading back to New York we visit Frank Child, one of Geoff's college buddies. Geoff officially retires from 46 years of teaching at Rutgers and becomes Professor Emeritus of Painting and Performance Art. After the events around the *Critical Mass* exhibition in October 2003, and the William Pope.L *eRacism* exhibition scheduled for January 2004 have taken place (though continuing to teach his graduate class "Media in Flux" through that spring.)

June 2002

The White House was evacuated when a plane accidentally entered its restricted air space.

We attend a memorial for Frank Moore, artist, friend and VisualAIDS/Archive Project Board member. We enjoyed many conversations with him about the landscape of our respective lands, his in Deposit, N.Y and ours on Cape Breton Island. The Board of Visual AIDS will rename its Archive Project the Frank Moore Archive Project.

Geoff and Sur drive up to Skowhegan with Velvet. Geoff is on the faculty and for eight weeks will be giving studio crits to 65 young artists. Sur returns to New York City after the arrival of the Skowhegan participants to the lakeside art colony. Sur assists with Gracie's move from Chelsea to her paneled wall nest with two working fireplaces, wonderful art, and her pet cat Emma. At the end of Geoff's lecture at Skowhegan, he performs a headstand. For a summer road trip Gracie will drive north to visit Drive-In theaters and Skowhegan, Maine in August. Pit Bull pet Radah visits Sur in New York while her owners, Barry & Stefani, travel to Brazil.

July 2002

A New York man sued McDonald's, Wendy's, Burger King, and Kentucky Fried Chicken for making him fat.

Sur returns to Skowhegan and writes the beginnings of his book project: *the Brides and the Bachelors of Manhattan's Lower East Side*. Geoff is occupied with

organizing the re-staging of the *Flux-Mass* in Wiesbaden, Germany, and the *Critical Mass* catalog.

Tyche, Paul, Ian, and Amelia visit New York. Amelia tastes Sur's miso soup for breakfast.

August 2002

Saudi investors pulled an estimated \$200-billion (U.S.) out of the U.S. stock market in protest of the increasing tensions between the two nations.

Geoff participates in the "Ingestion" conference organized by Chris Thompson at the ICA, Maine College of Art in conjunction with the William Pope.L retrospective *eRacism*. Geoff makes rice balls while William makes peanut butter sandwiches, performing these activities during their panel discussion.

We are introduced to Peace activist Fric Jan Spruyt in Vermont, and take on consignment t-shirts that we bring to Skowhegan. One we offer to Amy Goodman, the voice of "Democracy Now" radio broadcaster, who was giving Skowhegan's Mellon lecture that day. Amy visits artist Tania Bruguera's studio. They meet each other for the first time. Gracie Mansion and David Zelmon visit us in Skowhegan. Sur falls into the lake with cameras in an attempt to assist Adrian Ellis (one of the Skowhegan participants) with his sea monster sculpture floating on the lake. We drive up to Cape Breton Island before our return to New York, arriving with Velvet in the wee hours of the morning.

Back in New York, we have our annual dinner for Minette on the 25th, a birthday shared with Brian Buczak, and our first without Minette. Velvet visits with Chris Tanner, who had given Velvet to Minette when she had lost her pet cat Sammy seven years earlier.

September 2002

A Sikh maintenance worker managed to get New York City subways shut down after someone saw him and his turban coming out of a maintenance hatch and assumed the world was about to end.

We travel to Kassel for Documenta and to Wiesbaden for a re-staging of George Maciunas' *Flux-Mass* together with four of Geoff's graduate students. We produce a "Procession of Flux Saints" the evening before the Mass. Emmett Williams is Flux-Bishop and Ben Patterson is Flux-Priest. Takako Saito performs as dove and descends from a cable running the length of the church. Francesco Conz takes many photographs.

Alistair Skinner dies. We fly to London on short notice for the funeral. In Frankfurt outside the Schirn Kunsthalle we meet Ann-Sophie, joyfully arriving with her father swinging her in a carrier. Our flight back to New York is delayed so we are unable to attend Holly Solomon's memorial at the Guggenheim Museum.

September 30th marks the Anniversary of our marriage during a recreation of Al Hansen's *Parisol for Marisol* at Judson Memorial Church on Washington Square seven years ago.

October 2002

Newly declassified documents revealed the U.S. had tested biological and chemical weapons on its own military.

Peter Goodale's memorial at St. Peter's Church in New York. Berty Skuber opens at the Emily Harvey Gallery, 537 Broadway. Bracken arrives for a day. Gracie leaves for Paris. Over 1200 postcards are displayed at the "Postcards from the Edge" Visual AIDS Benefit Fundraiser at Sperone-Westwater.

November 2002

The Environmental Protection Agency introduced rules that allowed for more emissions, claiming it would make the air cleaner. The U.S. Supreme Court began hearing arguments on whether the Miranda Law's "right to remain silent" precluded beating a person into talking.

Hildamarie and her long time friend Ariane Deluz, visit us on Greenwich Street. We share our attempt at a traditional Thanksgiving dinner with William S. Wilson and Elizabeth Murchison, whose father Geoff knew in Scotland in 1950. The Thanksgiving meal experience is a first for Ariane and Elizabeth.

We push to meet a December 4th deadline by the press requesting to review galleys of the *Critical Mass* book project. Sur considers his participation in a program (in April) being organized by New York University at the New School University entitled: *Belated Bohemia: Art and Identity in the East Village*. Sur's particular interest is the historical mapping of the art world's women (the brides) and their relationships with gay men (the bachelors) in the art world during the 1970-80's.

da capo -----

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