

Pelican (1963)

Overview

Pelican, choreographed by Robert Rauschenberg, premiered at the Pop Art Festival at the Gallery of Modern Art, Washington, D.C. on May 9, 1963, with Rauschenberg, Per Olof Ultvedt, and Carolyn Brown as performers. Subsequent performances were at the First New York Theater Rally, former CBS Studio, Broadway and Eighty-first Street, New York, May 1965; featuring Alex Hay in place of Ultvedt; and the Five Choreographers in Three Dance Concerts, Rollerdrome, Culver City, California, April 1966.

The only known film footage is an excerpt of the version performed at the First New York Theater Rally featuring Rauschenberg, Alex Hay, and Carolyn Brown in May 1965. *There is no known footage of the complete performance.* Most of the files are duplications of the same excerpt, edited for a compilation created by the Guggenheim Museum in 1997. The earliest known excerpt is in the 1966 WNET documentary *USA Artists* (211.MM002.01) and includes a brief opening segment that is not visible in any of the other clips.

Rauschenberg created the original sound for the piece; clips vary in terms of their inclusion of sound. For an audio recording of the *Pelican* soundtrack, with an introduction by Rauschenberg, see 65.A002.00. For an audio recording without the introduction, see 63.A001.00.

This material is from the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation's Audiovisual Collection (RRFA-02). For a broader overview of the complete collection, access the finding aid at the RRF website in "Archives Collections."

File Details

Highest quality unique clips:	Duplicate or virtually similar clips:
<p><u>211.MM002.01</u> SOURCE: 1966 WNET documentary <i>USA Artists</i>. BRIEF DESCRIPTION: B&W. Begins with Carolyn Brown in the foreground and Rauschenberg and Alex Hay kneeling on wheels, pulling themselves forward on their hands. PERFORMERS: Rauschenberg, Alex Hay, Carolyn Brown EXCERPT LENGTH: 00:01:38 EXCERPT TIME CODE: 00:21:24—00:23:02 SOUND: Yes</p>	
<p><u>66.MM002.00</u> BRIEF DESCRIPTION: B&W. Part of a compilation with <i>Canoe</i> (1966), <i>Map Room II</i> (1965), and <i>Linoleum</i> (1966). Begins with Alex Hay spinning horizontally with parachute construction attached to his back. PERFORMERS: Rauschenberg, Alex Hay, Carolyn Brown EXCERPT LENGTH: 00:02:24 EXCERPT TIME CODE: 00:00:06-00:02:25 SOUND: No</p>	<p>63.MM001.00 (part of compilation, same excerpt) 63.V002.05 (part of compilation, same excerpt) 65.V003.00 (part of compilation, same excerpt) 63.v003.01 (slight yellow hue to B/W footage) 97.V016.07 (Alex Hay intro cut off, includes sound) 97.V016.03 (part of compilation, Alex Hay intro cut off, includes sound) 97.V016.00 (part of compilation, Alex Hay intro cut off, includes sound) 212.V001.00 (part of compilation, Alex Hay intro cut off, includes sound)</p>