



AL HANSEN

(1927–1995)

American artist, one of the leading figures in Fluxus, the contemporary art movement founded in the sixties

“Al Hansen explored the use of photobooth pictures in the same way he immersed himself in his signature Venus images, thoroughly and throughout his lifetime. Evidence suggests he began using the photobooth strips in the early sixties while living in and around Greenwich Village in Manhattan.

“As a working-class artist, living and creating on an economic high wire, he tirelessly quested after affordable art resources and ingenious solutions to overcome his lack of access to traditional materials, space, and equipment. He made collage from castoffs and detritus like candy wrappers, matchsticks, and cigarette butts, and he made performance art in cold water lofts, on street corners, and in ‘four for a quarter’ photobooths.

“We can see in the artist’s photobooth pieces, the influence of his childhood fascination and delight with both comic strips and film, as well as the reflection of his more serious adult inquiry into the gestalt of the picture frame. When he died in 1995 in Cologne, Germany, among the artworks he left behind were many based on the photobooth strip, offering us an enchanting glimpse into Hansen’s life and unique art process.”

—Bibbe Hansen

