

Yoko Ono

Emily Cullitan

Background



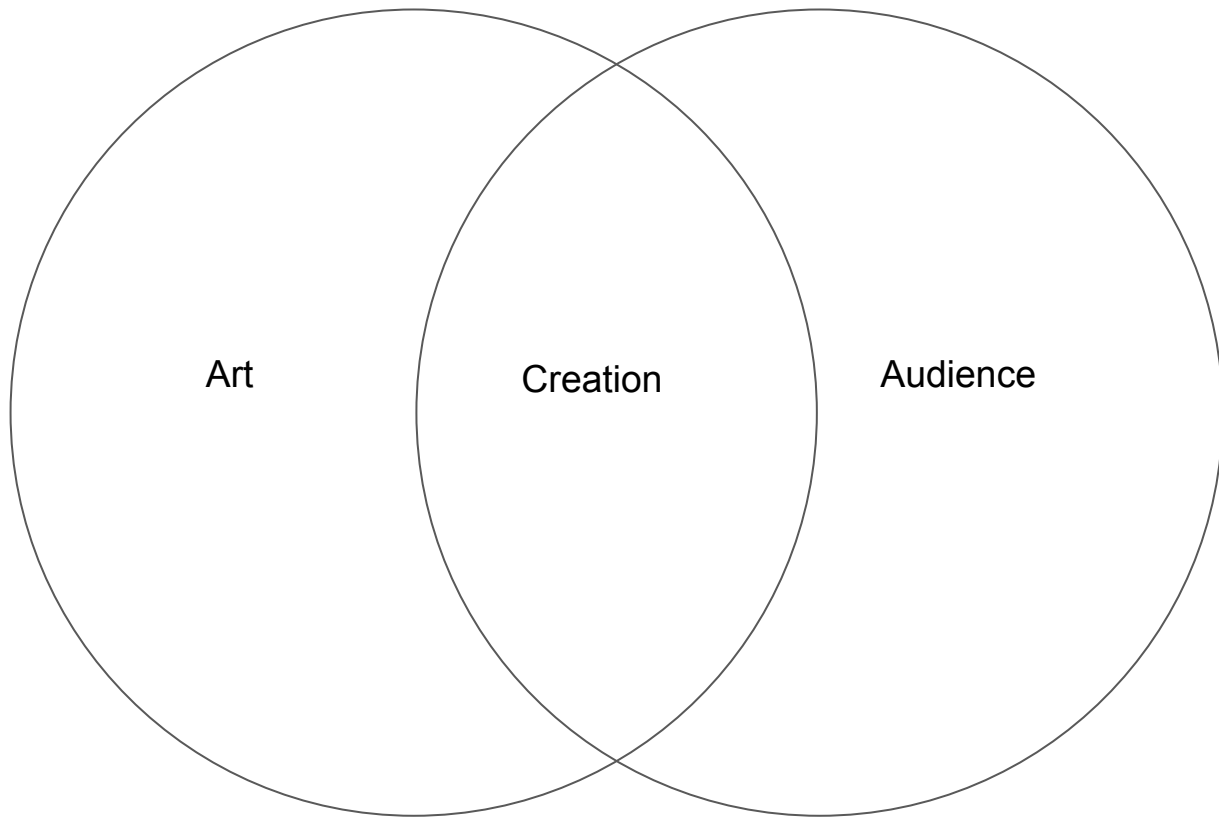
The Method Behind Ono's Work

- 1960s “instructional” pieces
- all about the **process** behind the work
- provides audience instructions on how to interact with her pieces
- new phenomenon: people are also the artists
- set up our own interpretations and scenarios
- all of her work can be done anywhere, at any time



Focuses

1. Audience
2. Space
3. Object
4. Time



Themes

1. Peace
2. Love
3. Connection

Painting to Hammer a Nail (1961)

Method

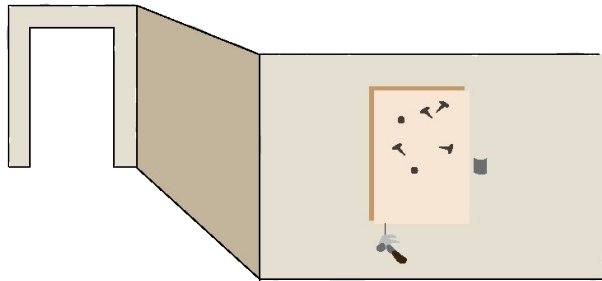
- viewer instructed to take nail from a jar, hammer it into wood panel
- work was considered finished when the surface was completely covered in nails

Significance

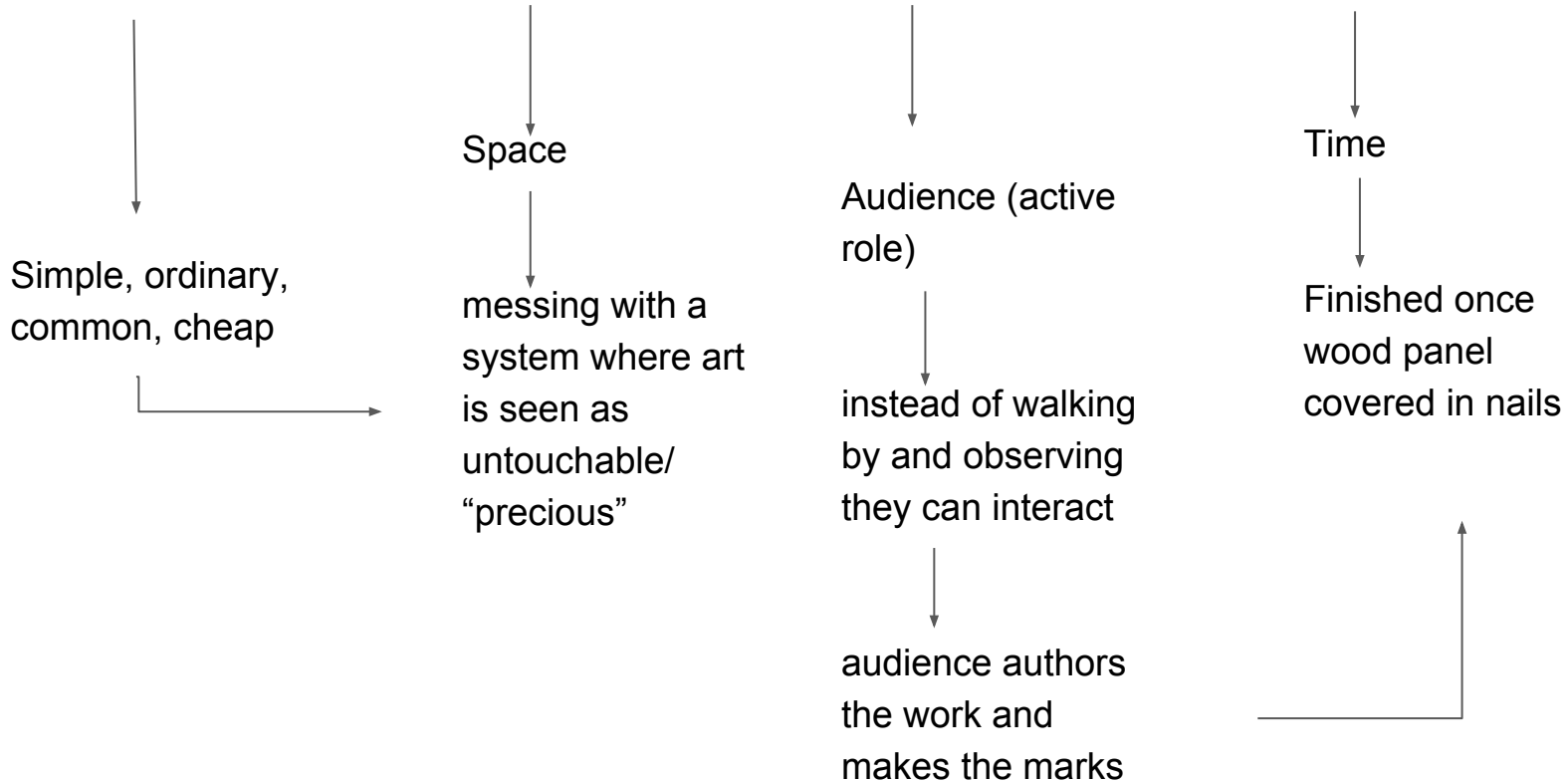
- audience responsible for completing the work (new phenomenon)

Fun Fact

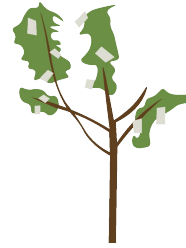
- Lennon saw the piece at a 1966 exhibition
- asked Ono if he could hammer imaginary nail into the panel



gather materials → **set up scene** → **leave the scene be** → **collect data**



Wish Tree (1981-present)



Method

- audience takes slip of paper and writes wish on it, ties it to tree

Significance

- tree was installed in a spirit of community, inclusivity, freedom of expression
- art can open peoples' eyes and minds
- world peace throughout whole world

Fun Facts

- Yoko has collected all the wishes – currently totalling over a million
- preserved and stored in the Wishing Well of the Imagine Peace Tower in Iceland
- Wish Trees are traditionally native, local and indigenous (Olive, Apple, Pomegranate, Ficus, Birch, and Juniper)



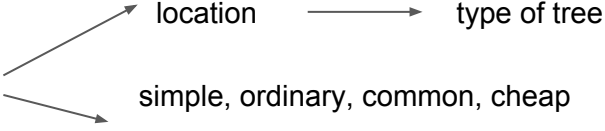




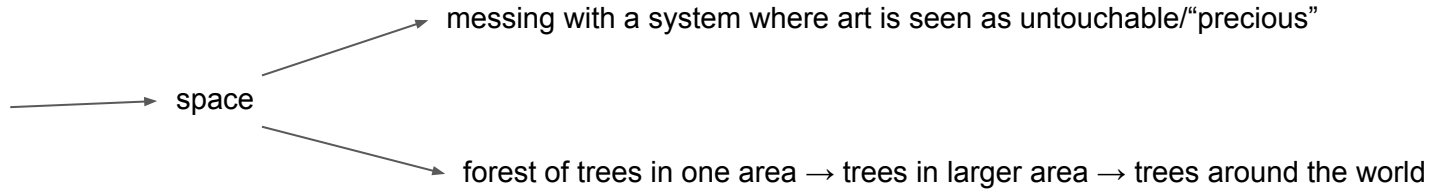
THE WISHING TREE



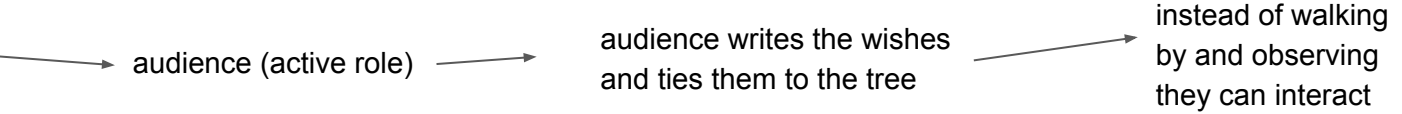
gather materials



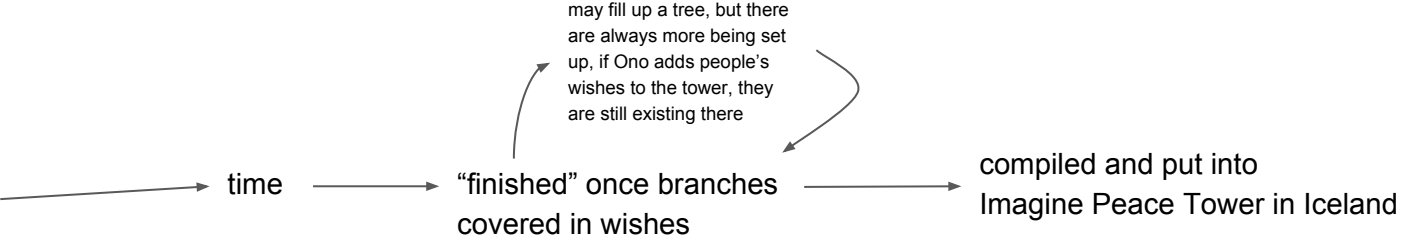
set up scene



leave the scene be



collect data



Bag Piece (1964)

Method

- Instructed to take clothes off and get into bag with stranger naked
- Now participants have option to go fully nude, or only remove certain amount of clothes

Significance

- eradicate bias around gender, race, status stereotypes
- become truest form of self-- interaction of souls
- challenge our discomforts with vulnerability

Fun Fact

- way to express shyness as younger woman
- “she constantly wished she could be in a box with holes to see what was happening on the outside without being seen”



gather materials



simple, ordinary,
common, cheap



set up scene



Space



messing with a system
where art is seen as
untouchable/"precious"



physically
entering bag



leave the scene be



audience (active role)



performers



playing with the idea of vulnerability,
the uncomfortable or the comfortable



collect data



time



"finished" once participants choose to leave, or
when the performers are done with their scene

