

Aspen Magazine: 1965–1971

Aspen Magazine was the first multimedia magazine in a box and included contributions from the leading artists, musicians, theorists, poets and graphic designers of the time.

Ten unique issues of Aspen Magazine were published in New York (1965–1971) by Roaring Fork Press. Including films, texts by theorists such as **Roland Barthes** and **Susan Sontag**, poetry and original artwork, each box came as surprise to its subscribers.

Editor Phyllis Johnson invited a new designer and editor for each issue and gave them complete freedom. They looked at different themes, from culture and lifestyle to architecture, the media, underground music and cinema. Artists **Brian O’ Doherty**, **Dan Graham**, **Andy Warhol**, designers **George Lois** and **Quentin Fiore** and art critic **Mario Amaya** were amongst the guest editors. Playwright **Samuel Beckett**, novelist **William Burroughs**, artists **Mel Bochner**, **Sol LeWitt**, **Yoko Ono**, **Robert Rauschenberg**, and composers **Bill Evans**, **John Cage** and **Steve Reich**, were some of the contributors. With references to Pop art, Conceptual Art and Fluxus, the outcome was diverse, transforming each issue into a time capsule.

This exhibition presents the full set of Aspen Magazine, unfolding a selection of its contents, still pertinent to today and much valued by a younger generation of artists. It includes all of the music compositions and films which were part of the magazine. A compilation of audio recordings presents older and recent interviews with key contributors who discuss the making of Aspen. A display of other ‘magazines in a box’ are shown in the Foyle Reading Room within Gallery 4.

The Whitechapel Gallery archive exhibitions are generously supported by Catherine and Franck Petitgas.

