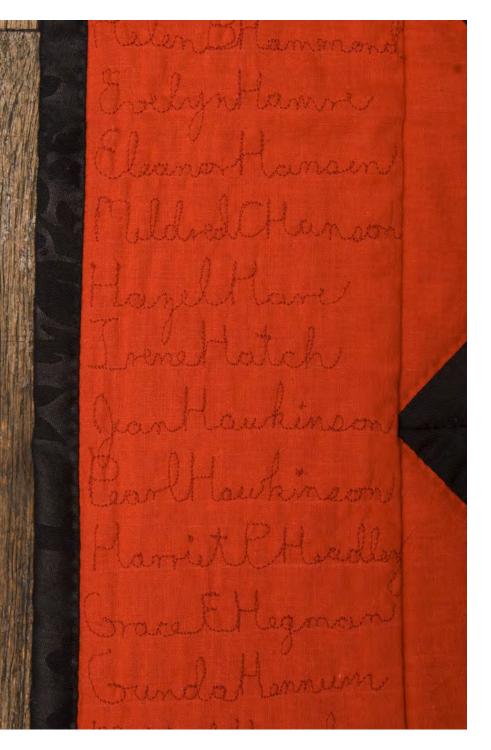


The Crystal Quilt Performance Suzanne Lacy, Sage Cowles, Nancy Dennis, Phyllis Jane Rose, Miriam Schapiro, Susan Stone Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1985-87



and Ratklauchto Loak I Elynn Kat Jack Assofsky for Anna Laroan and Lois A adjo b Antonia Bricor S helm Rolin Spactor for Coulthinson and Rocin bloom for Mose Mangolis

The Crystal Quiltwas interpreted by Jannie M. Spears and Judyketorsen assisted by Judy Breiseth Jean Johen Jackiel Northreep Donia Johnson Marilyn Dosh hunnell Rithellathatrondinda Roof Sue Stein ic donated by Northwest tabrics Concord Eubrics.

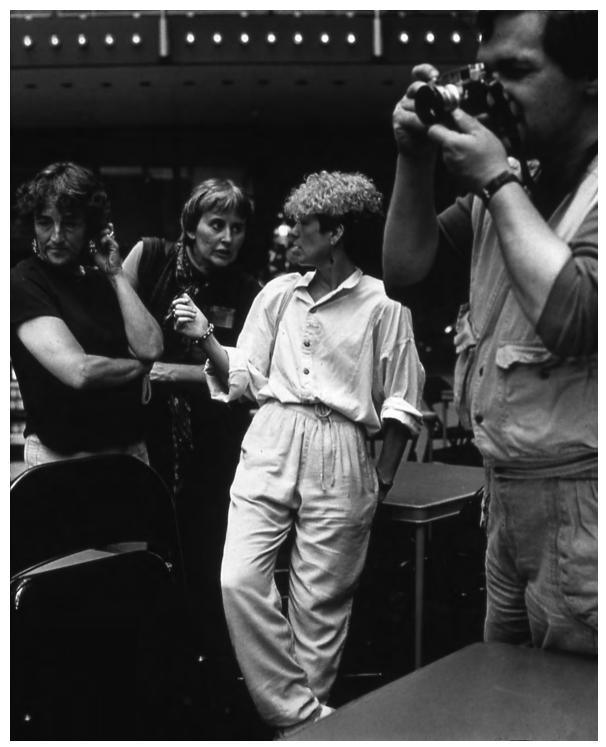


"I have long admired the generous and almost evangelical expansiveness of Suzanne Lacy's work. She is one of the few performance artists who has been able to get off the stage and into the streets without sacrificing her experimental integrity and striking imagery. Combined with her commitment to feminist issues, this has resulted in some of the most imaginative and powerful 'political' art in the last decade."

- Lucy R. Lippard

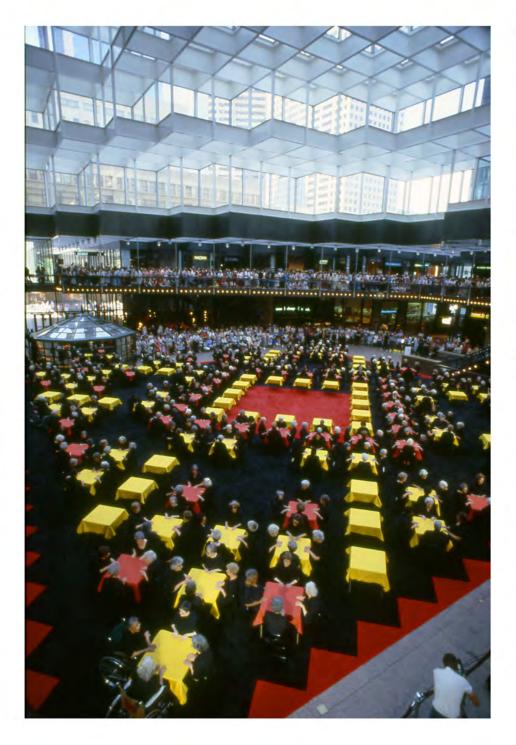
"For both performer and audience there were moments in...The Crystal Quilt when, through the magic visual "tricks" of the dazzling spectacles and the voices of the...old, black-clothed women in the Crystal Court, another world was revealed."

- Moira Roth



Lippard, Lucy R."Lacy: Some of Her Own Medicine." The Drama Review, Spring 1988. Roth, Moira."Suzanne Lacy: Social Reformer and Witch." The Drama Review, Spring 1988.

Lucy Lippard, Moira Roth, Suzanne Lacy and Larry Fink at The Crystal Quilt





The Crystal Quilt

On Mother's Day in 1987, 430 women over the age of 60 performed in an hour-long tableau that was live broadcast by public television. 3000 people attended the performance staged on an 82 foot square rug with tables placed to resemble a quilt (by painter Miriam Schapiro) and listened to an accompanying soundtrack that mixed the voices of 75 women talking about aging (by composer Susan Stone)—personal observations along with social analysis about the unutilized potential of the elderly. The project was co-produced by theatre director Phyllis Jane Rose and arts administrator Nancy Dennis.

While audience listened to the soundtrack, real time conversations between the women echoed the same themes. A loon cry or thunderclap rang out through the space at intervals, signaling the women to change the position of their hands, thus changing the design of the quilt (choreography by Sage Cowles). At the end of the performance, the audience brought hand-painted scarves as they flooded onto the stage, disrupting the austere order of the quilt design to create a crazy quilt of color, greeting the triumphant performers. The performance culminated a 2.5 year project that featured exhibitions, screenings, a leadership seminar, and a media campaign to increase the visibility of older women. It was broadcast live on PBS.









