

Carolee Schneemann @

Rochechouart Museum of Contemporary Art

*Describe these works by Carolee Schneemann
and give the year they were made in.*

More Wrong Things

Terminal Velocity

Meat Joy

*Identify these works from their descriptions.
Name the artist if they are not by Carolee
Schneemann.*

Filmed montage of pictures from the war in Vietnam.

Collaged news pictures from war zones mixed with pictures of cattle burning.

Wall of projections. Motorised mirrors deflect some of the images onto adjacent surfaces.

Filmed performance of dancers and actors being manipulated into various positions

Coffin-like boxes containing white plants made of wax.

Photo of wartime atrocities hidden for ever between two steel plates welded together.

It can be dangerous watching *Meat Joy*. What happened to Carolee Schneemann on this occasion ? Here is her description. What happened ? How did she escape ?

I was astounded when in the midst of *Meat Joy* a man came out of the audience and began to strangle me. Steeped in the writings of Wilhelm Reich, I understood what had affected him, but not how to break his hold on my neck! And I was terrified that the audience closest to us would think it part of the performance. No one made a move. Even if I could have squawked, the din of the continuing performance was overwhelming. I was saved by three middle-aged women, who may have had no previous experience of the excesses of the avant-garde; they simply *felt* I was being assaulted apart from the often violent performance. They threw themselves as one onto the man and dragged him off me.

Grid arrangements regularly occur in Carolee Schneemann's work. In *Infinity Kisses* (1981-87) she took photos of herself as Cluny her kitten ardently woke her each morning with long, deep kisses on her mouth. Can you find any examples of these images being recycled in other work, sometimes disturbingly ambiguous in their close association with death ?

What are *Dust Paintings*?

Using the description below and documentation available at the museum, can you identify and name this key performance work ?

Naked except for a sheet. Schneemann told her audience she would read from her book. *Cézanne. She Was A Great Painter*. She then unwrapped the covering sheet and painted large strokes of mud on the contours of her body and face. She climbed on to a long table and read the text while assuming a series of life-model poses, balancing the book in one hand. Dropping the book, she slowly extracted the scroll from her vagina and read the text inscribed on it which was taken from feminist texts she had written for a previous work.

Carolee Schneemann. *More Than Meat Joy*. 1979

Elsewhere in the museum and beyond...

Raoul Hausmann was born in which town ?

Where did he spend the second world war ?

What type of art did he pioneer ?

The museum contains two works by Richard Long. Can you find them and give their names?

Find a work by Giuseppe Penone outside the museum. Draw or describe it.

The stone used to make buildings in Rochechouart (the Castle and church for example) is unique. Why ?

What similarity can you find between Rochechouart Church tower and an architectural feature of the castle ?