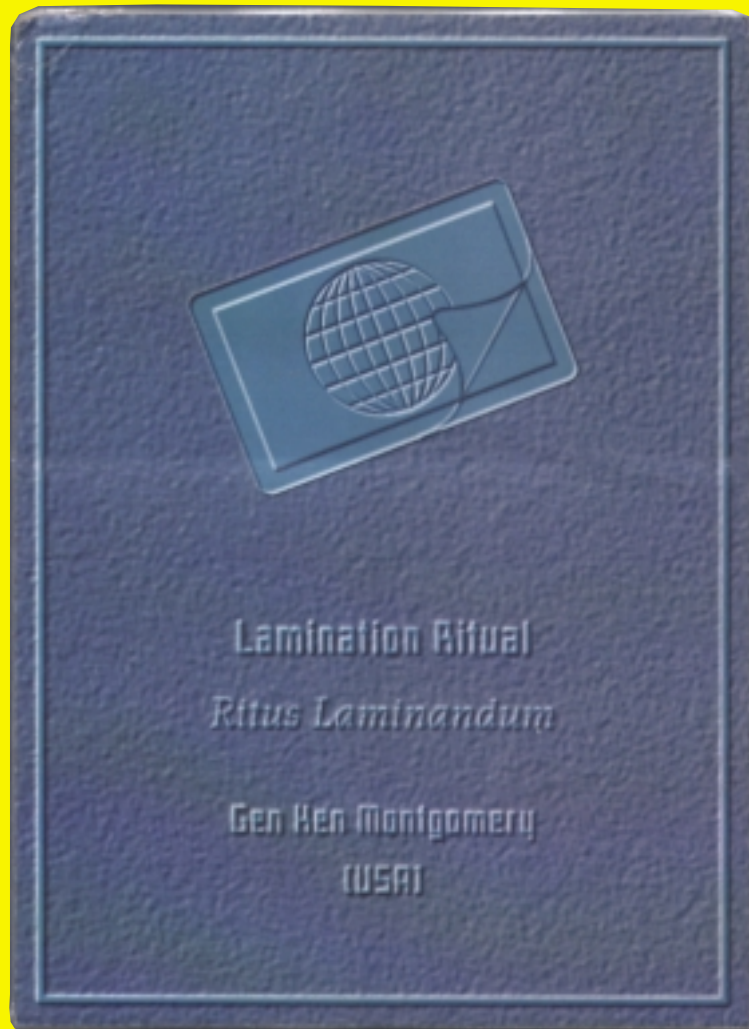


## Historical Perspective



egnekn

## Lamination Ritual

Lamination Ritual is a people-participatory activity and sonic listening experience which stimulates the mind and body *in-the-moment*, while producing an original, tangible, transformed personal object which will last... *almost* forever.

A lamination station is set up with all the supplies needed. A form is designed specific to the event. Contact microphones attached to the laminator amplify the sound of lamination through loudspeakers facing the user. The public is invited to engage their imagination to embellish, objectify and *officialize* the form by adding personal elements and permanently sealing them with the laminator. Enhanced by *The Sound of Lamination*, the process becomes ritualistic and the artist/laminator takes away a documentation/souvenir of this heightened moment. *The Sound of Lamination* creates a neurological memory to associate the ritual with the “officialized” document/souvenir.

### Lamination Ritual - History

Lamination Ritual is the current development initiated by a *Make Life Not Art* campaign propagated in 1989 by my studio-turned store/gallery/network/hub, Generator. Originally located in the East Village of New York City, Generator was an open call for intermedia experimentation, while continuing a personal preoccupation I had with sound/noise/music and listening experiences. The evolution of Generator - from studio to record store to concert hall to exhibition space to archive to traveling show — often followed a logic akin to “stream of consciousness”. By refusing to take the steps necessary to become commercially viable or to enter the arena of public funding, Generator was to remain completely flexible and as spontaneous and broke. Transformations, evolutions, openings and closings became an integral part of Generator as well as the offshoots down unknown and sometimes seemingly unrelated paths. These “seemingly unrelated paths” are as unmistakably mysterious as is the existence of “haphazard”. One of these paths was the use of the laminator in my work/life.

I supported Generator by working in a photo lab where laminating services were also provided. Each day I took discarded photographs out of the trash, cut them up and laminated them. Originally it was a kind of therapy-against-boredom, but it evolved into an obsession and source of inspiration. I decided Generator should have a self-service lamination station for the public to experiment and play with. People often associate lamination with the common place, practical objects such as: identification cards, menus, driver's license, etc. etc. (most people carry a laminated card with them all the time). But when people have the chance to experiment with making their own laminations the results are inspiring. Somehow the do-it-yourself trends found in more technically advanced mediums bypassed laminating. So Generator became the cutting edge Lamination Headquarters in New York City. (among its other functions.)

At Generator I became increasingly more involved with organized sound and consequently lost interest in “music” oriented traditions such as “music” concerts and “music” instruments. In my own work I began using ordinary objects to create sound experiences, in total darkness or in very stimulating environments such as *La La Lalandia 2077* events. I used a film projector (Keystone Model 16 CC), an ice crusher (ICE-O-MATIC) and a laminator. Meanwhile I discovered that laminating at Generator had a big impact on people. Among them were Canadian artists Gordon Monahan and Laura Kikauka who invited me to laminate in a Bauhütte Klangzeit 2000 event at Gargoyle Mechanique in 1990 (New York City). After many years as a noiscian struggling to make the transition into the art/life process, I was delighted to be invited to laminate. Laminated objects from that event are still carried by people who attended it. This is a testament to the lasting impact of Lamination Rituals. For me it marked the beginning of a series of life process events, often with the laminator close at hand. I have found no end to the variety of objects that can be laminated and no end to the enthusiasm, interest, confusion and fun people have shown when they are confronted with re-thinking lamination. Among items laminated during Lamination Rituals in the past are: monkey hairs, keys, rubber bands, rice noodles, razor blades, bubble gum, pubic hair, sponge fragments, paper clips, leeks, foil, torn fabric, wok cooked chili peppers, hash, spit, sprouts, leaves, bubble-wrap, french fries, pancakes, web cam stills, wax, dust, rubber and vinyl.

## Lamination as a Virtual Metaphor

Lamination Ritual celebrates the transformation of the mundane into the realms of *OFFICIALDOM*, of ordinary into extraordinary. Lamination is completely participatory and accessible to everyone. Lamination is versatile. It can be an object of utility or whimsical extravagance. It can warm the body and open the mind. Lamination preserves, brightens and protects indiscriminately. Lamination counters our increasingly fast paced world by virtually slowing down the entropy process. Lamination provides a way to preserve for years fragile and transient items which would otherwise be lost or discarded in a few days or even seconds. And finally, every lamination has its own unique sound. *The Sound of Lamination* is the sound of anticipation, of the great process of life. In a confusing world, lamination produces security, satisfaction and a sense that “*something is happening*”.

## ARTIST STATEMENT

In the process of defining my work I have been involved in creating projects and events which bring together various people to produce sounds and to focus on the experience of listening and being. I've become increasingly appreciative of the enduring impression of experiences that arise out of personal transitory moments. Sound is a great form of transportation. I like to create situations which encourage listening and haphazardness, while contemplating that haphazardness doesn't exist. Recently I have been enhancing the pre-existing sounds of objects whose primary function is seemingly unrelated to the sounds they produce. In a social context I hope to shift perception, open windows to new experiences, provoke never-heard-before dialogs and have fun. My attempts to confront limitations have helped me to utilize them. In pursuit of a spontaneous creative thought I strive to overcome the fear of producing something stupid or boring.



## LAMINATION RITUALS - REALIZATIONS

Lamination Trilogy - Stardust Festival - Fylkingen - Moderne Museet - LAVA Stockholm Sweden  
Subject To Sound - The Sound of Lamination, The Rotunda Gallery, Brooklyn March 30, 1999  
Electroluxe at TONIC - New York City March 15, 2000  
ohio #7 Launch FUNtion - Printed Matter New York City December 4, 1999  
Rodem Sholem - Bookmarks & Bellydancing - New York City November 14, 1999  
Pea Lamination Ritual - Schmalzwald, Berlin May 22, 1999  
Hörenswürdigkeit - SpritzenHaus, Hamburg May 9, 1999  
Laminating Machine Model No. 2291 - QUIET!!! Lump Gallery, North Carolina Dec. 4, 1998 - Jan. 1999  
The Signing of The Laminator by Ron & Russell Mael, aka. Sparks - Los Angeles, CA Nov. 14, 1998  
Pancakes & More! - The Kitchen - New York City March 27 & 28, 1998  
Inauguration of General Consulate/KREV NYC – Thomas Nordanstad Gallery - New York City May 26, 1996  
Word Up/Literature & Media Festival - Vienna, Austria March 21-24. 1996  
The Substitute - Buffalo, New York November 25, 1995  
Gordon Monahan & Laura Kikauka – Wedding - Canada July 15, 1995  
220V KlankPark/V2 Organisation - Rotterdam, NL August 1994  
Klauhütte Bangzeit 200 - Marstell Theatre, München May 27, 1994  
Bauhütte Klangzeit 2000 - Gargoyle Mechanique, New York City May 1991  
Generator Experimental Sound Art Gallery - NYC June 1, 1989 - June 1, 1990  
  
Appointed Minister of Lamination/The Kingdoms of Elgaland & Vargaland February 13, 1995

## LAMINATION RITUALS - RECORDINGS

*The Sound of Lamination* - 10 year retrospective CD box by Firework Editions, Stockholm 1999  
*The Sound of Lamination* - 7 inch recorded object by A.T.M.O.T.W. 1994  
*The Sound of Lamination* - 8 track and cassette by A.T.M.O.T.W. 1994

# egnekn's Incomplete Laminography

- Fruit Loops (Brooklyn 1996)  
Hair Attached To A Head (New York 1996)  
Ministry of Lamination Birthday Cake (New York 1996)  
Toaster Burnt Fax From Con in Berlin (Brooklyn 1996)  
Paprika (Brooklyn 1996)  
Hair Extension (Brooklyn 1996)  
Hex Signs Napkin (Brooklyn 1996)  
Cuban Cigarette Package (Brooklyn -1996)  
Annie Sprinkle Finger Puppet (Brooklyn -1996)  
Deposit Slip (Brooklyn -1996)  
Magic Crystals (Brooklyn -1996)  
Silly Putty, Paper & Trash (Brooklyn -1996)  
Handwritten Letter From The I.R.S. (Brooklyn -1996)  
Sequins on Cloth -(Brooklyn -1996)  
Piece of Yarn, (Buffalo-1995)  
Brail Message, (Buffalo-1995)  
Bubble Wrap, (Brooklyn -1996)  
Cannot Become Obsolete Magazine Issue #2, (Brooklyn -1996)  
Nose Booger with Hair (Brooklyn -1996)  
Roots of Lamination - (Photo of Egnekn Ironing Hankies in Churchville, Pennsylvania in 1963, (Brooklyn 1996)  
Pondfloorsample Label, (Pennsylvania 1994)  
Backstage Pass With Thai Noodles, (Canada - 1995)  
Invitation to "That Place" – 200 East 3rd Street, (NYC 1990)  
Blotter Acid, - (Markdale, Ontario-New York City-Dusseldorf-Berlin-Munich-Naples-Meta di Sorrento-Lyon- Piergo La Clastre-Paris-Baltimore-New York City - 1995)  
Spit, - (Rotterdam -1994)  
Hash, - (Rotterdam -1994)  
Tobacco, - (Rotterdam -1994)  
Sea shells, - (Rotterdam -1994)  
French Fries, - (Rotterdam -1994)  
Potato Chips, - (Ontario -1995)  
Chili Peppers - (Ontario -1995)  
Used Condom, - (Ontario -1995)  
Barry Schwartz's Pubic Hair, (Munich 1994)  
Rubber Snake, - (Rotterdam - 1994)  
Pasta, (New York-1990)  
Sponge, (New York-1992)  
Razor Blade, (New York -1989)  
Trackball Dirt, (Brooklyn -1996)  
Material Collected from Kitchen Drain, (Brooklyn -1996)  
Christmas Tree Trunk Cover with Sparkles, (Brooklyn -1996)  
"Cry For Help" -Unopened Letter Postmarked in Budapest to Monty Cantsin from Gyula Mate, (Brooklyn-1995)  
Autographed Glossy Photo of Sparks, (Brooklyn -1995)  
Ancient Computer Disk, (Brooklyn -1995)  
Painted Matzo Crackers, (Brooklyn -1995)  
"Brooklyn" Chewing Gum via France, (Brooklyn -1995)  
Certificate of Authenticity Received From Wifflefist, (Brooklyn -1995)  
Fern Leaf, (Brooklyn -1994)  
Be-A-Kennedy Matches, (Brooklyn -1996)  
Seaberg Elevator Plate In Metal, (Brooklyn -1996)  
Mike Film - 8mm Film Clips from tENTATIVELY a cONVENIENCE, (Brooklyn -1996)  
Collapsible Ambient, - Invitation on Fax Paper from Mariano Airaldi (Brooklyn - 1996)  
3-D Slide by Larry Seven, (Brooklyn -1996)  
Broken Cross, (Brooklyn -1995)  
Foil Flower from Laura & Gordon's Wedding, (Ontario - 1995)  
Big Plant Leaf, (Brooklyn -1996)  
Wednesday is Non-Idling Truck Dy Sign, - (Greenpoint, NY)  
Certificate of Lamination with Fern (May 27, 1994)  
Two Pieces of Dutch Licorice, -(Rotterdam 1994)  
Oath of Destitution by Fly with Juicy Flower (New York 1994)  
Stamped Official Music Request Form/KBZ200 (Munich 1994)  
Shredded Official Music Request Form/KBZ200 (Munich 1994)  
Drawing of John Hudak's Hand with Leaf, (Rotterdam 1994)  
2 Klauhütte Bangzeit 200 Official 1994 Manuals Closed, (Munich-1994)  
Fake Wood Grain Plate with Cut-Up U.S. Dollar and A.T. M.O.T.W. Sticker, (Brooklyn- 1994)  
Optical Disk-(Brooklyn 1995)  
The Sound Lamination Blue Vinyl Object (Rotterdam -1994)  
Bathtub Drain Hair & Debris, (Brooklyn -1994)  
Jelly Hand, (Brooklyn -1995)  
Creative Pretzel Eaters Club Membership Card, (Brooklyn -1994)  
Icebreaker Generator Invitation Card  
Generator 547 at Spaces Invitation Card, (Cleveland 1992)  
Neck X-Ray (New York City - 1992)  
Piezo Microphone, (Rotterdam 1994)  
Very Juicy Fresh Leek Leaf (Brooklyn 1995)  
Grass Gone To Seed (Brooklyn 1995)  
Unsent Postcard to Gordon & Laura with Evaluation of Wendy's Store # 523 (New York 1992)  
Many Photos Cut Up & Thrown Together Spontaneously - (New York 1988-89)  
Two Colors of Lipstick, (Vienna - 1996)  
Monkey Hair, (New York City - 1989)  
Steel Plate, (Brooklyn - 1994)  
Words Recorded on Audio Tape, (Vienna - 1996)  
Seaweed, (Brooklyn 1996)  
Hearing Loss Charts for Krev, (New York City - 1996)  
Dirt, (Brooklyn - 1996)  
Confetti, (Brooklyn - 1996)  
Canadian Money, (Brooklyn, 1996)

# *Some examples of lamination...*



Broken Cross



Silly Putty & Trash



Unknown Materials



Dustpan Debris



Bath drain debris



Floor sweepings



Magic Crystals

egnek1



Trackball Dirt

# LAMINATION RITUALS - REALIZATIONS HIGHLIGHTS

[A Precious Particle, The Stardust Festival Lamination Trilogy, Stockholm, Sweden, 31 August - 3 September 2000](#)

On a mission to space on KREV AIR, the Minister of Lamination and the Enchantress of Bioluminescence return to Earth, landing at Fylkingen and bringing with them precious particles of stardust from distant galaxies. Lamination Rituals continued for the next 3 days at the Moderna Museet and LAVA, then the “official” state laminator overheated and broke down.

[Pea Lamination Ritual, The Schmalzwald, Berlin, Germany, 22 May 1999](#)

At the conclusion of a Skipeasziels performance by the Minister of Lamination and the Enchantress of Bioluminescence, ice cubes with peas frozen inside were handed out to each member of the audience. After the ice melted, a pea remained in each hand. The peas were then laminated.

[HORENSWIRDIGKEIT-Mutterstag, The Spritzenhaus, Hamburg, Germany, 9 May 1999](#)

A new word was officially introduced into the German language on Mother’s Day by the Ministry of Lamination during a 12 hour Lamination Ritual. *It was worth hearing!*

[Pancakes & More, The Kitchen, New York City, NY, 27 & 28 March 1998](#)

Pancakes were cooked on a skillet, stamped with the “official” seal, and promptly laminated. Attendees were encouraged to make their own pancakes, laminate them, and of course listen to the sound of their pancake being laminated. To conclude the 2 day affair, the Enchantress of Bioluminescence, wearing an “official” dress made entirely from laminated pancakes, joined the Minister of Lamination to create a special ceremony.

[Inauguration of KREV General Consulate, Thomas Nordanstad Gallery, New York City, NY, 26 May 1996](#)

Visitors to the gallery were given a hearing loss test by the Minister of Audiology Larry 7. Cards were designed that showed the results of these tests. The cards were laminated (while listening to [The Sound of Lamination](#)) with personal ephemera collected and created on the spot by the visitors.

[Word Up, Literature & Media Festival, Vienna, Austria, 21-24 March 1996](#)

Visitors to the festival were asked to choose a word they wanted to keep forever. The word was then recorded on tape. The tape was then spliced and attached to a form which read “I vow to keep my word”. Visitors were reminded to *live in the moment* as they laminated their forms.

[The Substitute, Buffalo, NY, 25 November 1995](#)

The Institute closed the night before a Lamination Ritual was scheduled. At the Substitute, guests were invited to laminate the debris left over from the previous night’s dinner.

[Gordon Monahan & Laura Kikauka’s Wedding, Canada, 15 July 1995](#)

The lamination station was set up and “Backstage Passes” were designed to initiate the Lamination Ritual. Throughout the night, guests of the bride and groom laminated everything in sight.

[Appointed Minister of Lamination for the Kingdoms of Elgaland & Vargaland, 13 February 1995](#)

At the SUBWAY INN in New York City, C.M. von Hausswolff, King of the virtual Kingdoms of Elgaland & Vargaland, appointed Egnekn (Ken Montgomery) Minister of Lamination. The Sonic Archive of “official” laminations was “officially” initiated.

[220 KlankPark, V2 Organization, Rotterdam, Netherlands, August 1994](#)

A lamination station was set up in a shipping container for 3 days in Museum Park in downtown Rotterdam. Strollers through the park were encouraged to find objects in the park to laminate while listening to [The Sound of Lamination](#). A 7 inch record (Blue Vinyl Object) was produced for this event--*it also got laminated!*

[Klauhutte Bangzeit 200, Marstell Theatre, Munich, Germany, 27 May 1994](#)

KBZ 200 hosted a 14 hour performance of the Exotic Trilogy (a continuous repetition of 3 songs). IRRITAINMENT™ music request forms were handed out and brought to the lamination station where they were shredded and laminated. A pamphlet explaining the concept behind KBZ was issued and laminated.

[Bauhutte Klangzeit 2000, Gargoyle Mechanique, New York City, NY, May 1991](#)

One of the first KBZ 200 events (then BKZ 2000), the first time the laminator left the Generator! Noodles, monkey hair, well . . .let’s just say there was a whole lotta laminating going on at this party.

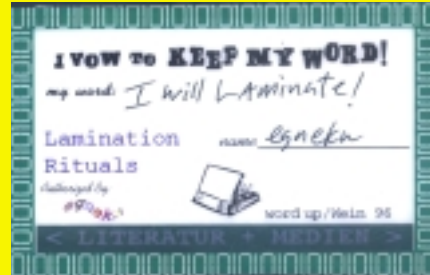
[Generator Experimental Sound Art Gallery, New York City, NY, 1 June 1989 - 1 June 1990](#)

A self-service Lamination Department was set up for visitors to the gallery where they could laminate to their ears content.

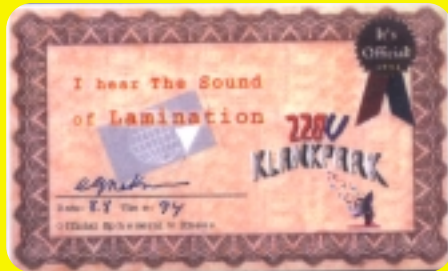
## some past LAMINATION RITUALS



HÖRENSWIRDIGKEIT-Mutterstag  
/The SpritzenHaus, Hamburg – May 9, 1999  
A new word was officially introduced into the German language on Mother's Day by The Ministry of Lamination during a 12 hour Lamination Ritual.  
*It was worth hearing!*



Word Up/Literature & Media Festival  
- Vienna, Austria March 21-24, 1996  
Visitors to the festival were asked to choose a word they wanted to keep forever. The word was then recorded on tape. The tape was then spliced and attached to a form which read "I vow to keep my word". In a Lamination Ritual was laminated by the visitors while being reminded to *live in the moment*.



220 KlankPark/V2 Organisation - Rotterdam, NL August 1994  
A lamination station was set up in a shipping container for 3 days in Museum Park in downtown Rotterdam. Strollers through the park were encouraged to find objects in the park to laminate while listening to *The Sound of Lamination*. A 7 inch record (Blue Vinyl Object) was produced for this event. *(it also got laminated!)*



Inauguration of General Consulate/KREV NYC –  
Thomas Nordanstad Gallery - NYC May 26, 1996  
Visitors to the gallery were given a hearing loss test by the Minister of Audiology Lary 7. Cards were designed that portrayed the result of these tests. The cards were laminated (while listening to *The sound of Lamination*) with personal ephemera collected and created on the spot by visitors to the gallery.



The Substitute -  
Buffalo, New York November 25, 1995  
The InSTITUTE closed the night before Lamination Rituals were scheduled. At The Substitute guests were invited to laminate the leftover debris from the previous nights dinner.



ICEBERG CRASH -  
party in Brooklyn at Fakeshop - July 25, 1998  
Laminating food from the 7 master chefs. We crushed ice and tried to laminate it. The Ministry of Lamination will try anything!



Gordon Monahan & Laura Kikauka – Wedding  
- Canada July 15, 1995  
The lamination station was set up and "Backstage Passes" were designed to initiate the Lamination Rituals. Throughout the night guests of the bride and groom laminated everything in sight.



The Sound of Lamination  
Rotunda Gallery, Brooklyn March - May 2000  
The Ministry of Lamination was temporarily set up in the gallery where visitors could read instructions and make their own laminations. During opening night Lamination Ritual audio tape was spun by the Enchantress of Bioluminosity and promptly laminated.

## Lamination Rituals Around The World



**Williamsburg 1998**

ICEBERG CRASH - party in Brooklyn at Fakeshop - July 25, 1998  
Laminating food from the 7 chefs.  
We crushed ice and tried to laminate it.  
The Ministry of Lamination will try anything!



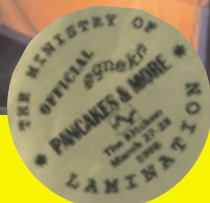
**Rotterdam 1994**

220 KLANKPARK  
-V2 Organisation - Rotterdam, NL August 1994  
A lamination station was set up in a shipping container for 3 days in Museum Park in downtown Rotterdam. Strollers through the park were encouraged to find objects in the park to laminate while listening to *The Sound of Lamination*. A 7 inch record (Blue Vinyl Object) was produced for this event. (*it also got laminated!*)



**Vienna 1996**

WORD UP/LITERATURE & MEDIA FESTIVAL - Vienna, Austria March 21-24, 1996  
Visitors to the festival were asked to choose a word they wanted to keep forever. The word was then recorded on tape. The tape was then spliced and attached to a form which read "I vow to keep my word". In a Lamination Ritual was laminated by the visitors while being reminded to *live in the moment*.



PANCAKES & MORE  
The Kitchen NYC - NYC March 27 & 28, 1998  
Pancakes were cooked on a skillet, stamped with the "official" seal and promptly laminated. The participants were encouraged to make their own pancakes, laminate them and of course listen to the sound of their pancake being laminated. A ceremony with a guest appearance by Andrea Beeman wearing the "official" wardrobe - a dress made from laminated pancakes, topped the 2 day affair.



**Munich 1994**

KLAUHÜTTE BANGZEIT 200  
- Marstell Theatre, München May 27, 1994  
KBZ 200 hosted a 14 hour performance of *The Exotic Trilogy* (a continuous repetition of 3 songs) (*IRRITAINMENT™*) Music request forms were handled out and brought to the Ministry of Lamination where they were shredded and laminated. A pamphlet explaining the concept behind KBZ was issued and laminated.

**Stockholm 2000**



STARDUST FESTIVAL  
- Fylkingen, Stockholm, Sweden Aug, 31 2000  
Lamination Ritual incorporating intergalactic travel and a mission to bring precious particles of stardust for the public to laminate, one at a time.