

Staff. "Al Hansen," *Art in America*, September 1995.

GRACIE MANSION

FINE ART

# Art in America

September 1995

**Al Hansen**, 67, Happenings and Fluxus artist who lived in Germany for the last 15 years, died of a heart



Photo David Peiss

**Al Hansen.**

attack in Cologne on June 20. Born in Queens, N.Y., Hansen created what may have been the first Happening while he was a member of the 82nd Airborne Division from 1945 to '48. It took place in Frankfurt, where he dropped a piano off a four-story building as part of an Armed Forces Show. In the '50s he studied at the Art Students League, Pratt Institute in Brooklyn and Cooper Union; he also studied at the New School with John Cage. He became part of the burgeoning art scene in downtown New York, exhibiting at Reuben Gallery in 1959 and Judson Church in 1960 and '64. He taught at Rutgers (1967-74). More recently he showed collaged Venus figures made of Hershey bar wrappers, matchsticks and other materials at Emily Harvey and Gracie Mansion in New York. A show of his work opened at the Poszti-Bott Gallery in Cologne shortly before his death.

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