

The Last Supper

By Steve Glines

John Bellicchi is one of the most talented people I know. I met John back in the early 1970's. He was an artist, a graphic designer and so was I. We became partners and called ourselves "Colors of the Sun, Graphic Design." We specialized in typographic logos. If you don't know what I mean here is my business card:



Each letter of my last name was hand carved and manually spaced from very expensive (at the time) phototypeset Helvetica. This was well before personal computers made this kind of manipulation easy. John did the work by hand, placing each letter exactly where he felt it belonged, having a Photostat made and reworking it again. It was painstaking work.

When we printed our business cards it was on the most expensive velum paper we could find, on two sides and in two colors, black and a carefully chosen and hand mixed tan, on each side. The paper felt like something between simple card stock and sheepskin. It was the best we could find, better than we could afford and the two-color ink said quality to those discerning enough to recognize quality when they saw it. Few did and our partnership lasted about two years. I've kept in touch with him for the last 30 years.

John moved to Germany, married and never learned to speak German but became famous for running "Men's workshops" of the get together and beat drums while chanting variety. Lately he's been creating what we would have called in the 1960's, "happenings." I met him on a trip to the states in the fall of 2005 where he showed a CD of his latest events. One caught my eye, "The last Supper."

Never let it be said that John does things simply. John defined the evening as:

"a fusion of process and performance"

The event consisted of:

1	evening
12	guests
1	theme
12	perspectives
4	courses
4	presentations in between courses
10	minutes per guest

The event required the following support staff:

1	chef
2	chef assistants
1	artist
1	artist assistant
1	photographer
1	cameraman
1	sound technician
1	lighting technician
1	moderator
2	overseers
2	historians
3	service persons
1	event manager

The event was constrained by four dimensions: time, space, food, and media and in the context of a religious event by culture, church, art & cooking. The event required social choreography and required the guests to connect, discover, and respond. The event was a shared experience and a joint exploration.



“The Last Supper” took place in a church. The pews had been removed to make way for the cooks, the guests, the artist and the support staff. In addition to a video the results of this evening included a special book put together by the artist, the photographer and the historians who recorded everything about the event. Although the book is in German it is impressive.

See <http://whlreview.com/JohnBellicchi.pdf>