

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS:

**100 WAYS TO CONSIDER TIME**

100 durational performances by Marilyn Arsem  
Jeanne and Stokley Towles Gallery  
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston  
November 9, 2015 – February 19, 2016

Arsem performed daily from November 9, 2015, to February 19, 2016.  
When she was not present, an audio recording of her voice describing the previous day's action played in the gallery.

**DAY 1**

*Arrival*

Monday, 11/9/15  
10:30 am – 4:30 pm  
I entered the room.  
I approached the chair in the opposite corner.  
I sat in my chair, slowly moving it closer to the other chair.  
I listened and waited.

**DAY 2**

*Counting*

Tuesday, 11/10/15  
10:30 am - 4:30 pm  
I counted out loud continuously, reaching 5,800.

**DAY 3**

*Sands of Time*

Wednesday, 11/11/15  
3:30 pm – 9:30 pm  
I turned an hourglass over six times, ending just at 9:30 pm.  
I placed a small stone at the edge of the table to mark each hour, lining them up across the front.

**DAY 4**

*Rock Time Part 1*

Thursday, 11/12/15  
10:30 am - 4:30 pm  
I lay on the floor next to a large rock and tried to be as still as it is.

**DAY 5**

*Rock Time Part 2*

Friday, 11/13/15  
3:30 pm – 9:30 pm  
Sitting on a chair, across from the large rock on the other chair, I tried again to be as still as it is.

**DAY 6**

*Progressions*

Saturday, 11/14/15

10:30 am – 4:30 pm

I slowly, methodically moved six rocks along a line on the tabletop, sliding the first across the table around to the back of the line behind the others, then moving each one forward into the empty space.

## **DAY 7**

*Einstein*

Sunday, 11/15/15

10:30 am – 4:45 pm

I read aloud Albert Einstein's *Relativity: The Special and the General Theory*. I read 121 pages of 157, and so I didn't read Appendixes II – V, even though I read for 15 minutes longer hoping I could finish it.

## **DAY 8**

*Listening*

Monday, 11/16/15

10:30 am – 4:30 pm

I sat in the chair, facing the wall, blindfolded.

Listening.

## **DAY 9**

*The Race of the Rocks*

Tuesday, 11/17/15

10:30 am – 4:30 pm

I placed twenty-two rocks along a line in the floorboards, so that they stretched across the room, parallel to the bench on the longer wall. The audience and I watched the rocks race each other across the room. A discussion ensued about the speed at which the rocks and we are moving as the earth spins, as it travels around the sun, and as it moves with the expanding universe.

## **DAY 10**

*Melting*

Wednesday, 11/18/15

3:30 pm – 9:30 pm

I sat at the table and watched a globe of ice eight inches in diameter melt.

## **DAY 11**

*Earthquakes*

Thursday, 11/19/15

3:30 pm - 9:30 pm

I measured my body by unrolling a length of blue masking tape, which I put on the floor. I lay down along it on my back and placed nine rocks below and above my knees and then five up my torso. I started the stopwatch to see how long I could stay still enough for the rocks to remain on my body. When they fell, I wrote the time on the tape on the floor.

## **DAY 12**

*Walking*

Friday, 11/20/15

3:30 pm – 9:30 pm

I walked continually in all different directions around the room. At one point members of the audience counted my steps and we estimated that by the end of the six hours I had walked between ten and eleven miles.

### **DAY 13**

#### *Balancing*

Saturday, 11/21/15

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I sat at the table and stacked rocks up as high as I could before they tumbled down.

I timed the effort, making note of it. The stack never got higher than ten rocks before it crashed on the table or over the edge to the floor.

### **DAY 14**

#### *Seeing Numbers*

Sunday, 11/22/15

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I made tallies on paper, as quickly as possible: four vertical slashes and one across diagonally. I hung the paper on the wall, noting the time and number of tallies on each sheet as I completed it. I made a total of 32,357 tallies.

### **DAY 15**

#### *Evaporation (II)*

Monday, 11/23/15

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I watched water evaporate from a glass bowl, which was lit from below with small LED lights.

### **DAY 16**

#### *Entropy, Part 1*

Tuesday, 11/24/15

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I placed a chair in the center of the room and put a ream of paper on the seat of it. I slowly walked around the chair, successively approaching each side of the seat, picking up one sheet of paper at a time and holding it up to try to blow it across the room with a single breath.

### **DAY 17**

#### *Entropy, Part 2*

Wednesday, 11/25/15

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I tried to blow all the papers from the day before back onto the chair. The audience helped me, and we counted the number of breaths (an average of 5.65) that it took to get each sheet back to the chair from where it had landed the day before. I talked about entropy, reading aloud sections of Jeremy Rifkin's book *Entropy*.

Thursday, 11/26/15 - Thanksgiving  
Museum closed, no performance.

### **DAY 18**

#### *Moving Backwards*

Friday, 11/27/15

3:30 pm - 9:30 pm

I began by sitting on my chair knee to knee with the other chair, in the corner. The other chair still had the rock on it, but it was covered with a black alpaca throw. I slowly began to move backwards in my chair, always facing the other one, moving diagonally across the room. I moved eighteen feet over the six hours, which was one foot every twenty minutes. It is possible that no one stayed long enough to notice that I was moving.

#### **DAY 19**

*Hawking*

Saturday, 11/28/15

10:30 am – 4:30 pm

I read aloud from Stephen Hawking's book *A Brief History of Time: From the Big Bang to Black Holes*. Starting from the beginning, I read 119 of the 182 pages.

#### **DAY 20**

*Mighty Oaks*

Sunday, 11/29/15

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I watched three acorns to see which would sprout first. One was under a plant light, one was in a dish of water, and the third was on crumbled dry leaves.

#### **DAY 21**

*Borders*

Monday, 11/30/15

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I started just inside the doorway, sitting in a chair with my back to the entrance, not seeing, only hearing people come in. I used green masking tape to mark small territories on the floor, moving always to the one that felt safest. Sometimes I was sitting in the chair, other times lying on the floor. I returned to the doorway when it felt safe again, repeating the process.

#### **DAY 22**

*Longest Day*

Tuesday, 12/1/15

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I asked the audience if they would answer the question, "What was the longest day in your life?" It was not always an easy or comfortable conversation as people told stories of their lives.

#### **DAY 23**

*Approaching Infinity*

Wednesday, 12/2/15

3:30 pm - 9:30 pm

The audience and I cut a 150-foot roll of paper in half, and then each piece in half again, continually. We were trying to reach infinity by 9:30 pm.

Close to 9:30 pm, we had 1024 pieces, and we managed to tear another 128 of them in half again, so we had 1152 pieces of paper by the end—not quite infinity. . . .

#### **DAY 24**

*Systems*

Thursday, 12/3/15

3:30 pm - 9:30 pm

I had 256 small rocks on the table and organized them in different configurations: first I laid them out in a grid (1 hour); then I organized them by color (3.5 hours); and then by categories of either shape, feature, or size (1.5 hours).

## **DAY 25**

*Crocheting a Mile*

Friday, 12/4/15

3:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Changing yarn every hour, I crocheted a chain, with the goal of crocheting a mile. I only managed to crochet 154 feet, however. The audience and I had an interesting discussion (aided by internet research via phone) about the origins of the measurement of a foot and a mile, and how it has changed over time and in different parts of the world.

## **DAY 26**

*Prone*

Saturday, 12/5/15

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I lay under the blanket along the back wall, entirely covered, not moving. The table and two chairs were in the center of the room, initially obscuring me from view.

## **DAY 27**

*The Long Drink*

Sunday, 12/6/15

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I spent the six hours looking at and then slowly sipping from, a single, small glass of water.

## **DAY 28**

*Transfer 1*

Monday, 12/7/15

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I poured water back and forth between two glasses. I weighed them every hour to determine how much water I had lost in the process, due to spills, drips, and evaporation.

## **DAY 29**

*One Line*

Tuesday, 12/8/15

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I drew a continuous line on a single piece of paper that stretched around the walls of the room, reversing the direction as I got to the doorway. I changed the color every half hour.

## **DAY 30**

*Happiest Time*

Wednesday, 12/9/15

3:30 pm - 9:30 pm

I asked the audience to answer the question, "What was the happiest time in your life?" As people spoke, I traced the outline of their feet on paper that was on the floor and marked the time each arrived and left.

## **DAY 31**

*Dust*

Thursday, 12/10/15

3:30 pm – 9:30 pm

I smashed and then ground rocks of marble into dust with a three-pound sledgehammer. The pounding reverberated throughout the building into distant galleries.

### **DAY 32**

*Digital Time*

Friday, 12/11/15

3:30 pm - 9:30 pm

I read the time out loud from a digital clock, minute by minute. The clock faced the audience members, and my back was to them.

### **DAY 33**

*Holding*

Saturday, 12/12/15

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I sat in the chair with my eyes closed, facing the audience, holding a large rock in my lap.

### **DAY 34**

*Who's Next*

Sunday, 12/13/15

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

After carefully laying out 256 small rocks on the table in rows, I pushed them off the table one by one, starting with the smallest and sliding them through the other rocks to the front until they teetered on the edge, falling to their deaths. It was slow and methodical, and I finished precisely at 4:30 pm.

### **DAY 35**

*Stars*

Monday, 12/14/15

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I read aloud Dr. Kenneth Lang's *The Life and Death of Stars*, from Chapter 9, "The Material Between Stars," through Chapter 11, "Stellar End States." I had just started on Chapter 12, "A Larger, Expanding Universe," when the six hours were done, and sadly I did not get to Chapter 13, "Birth, Life and Death of the Universe."

### **DAY 36**

*Rice*

Tuesday, 12/15/15

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I counted 11,250 grains of rice in groups of 100 to fill bowls of 500, then poured those into larger bowls of 2,500, then combined those in the largest bowl of 10,000. It was a total of 7.2 oz.

### **DAY 37**

*Empty*

Wednesday, 12/16/15

3:30 pm - 9:30 pm

I put an empty glass on the table. I sat and looked at it or had my eyes closed, considering emptiness.

**DAY 38**

*Hearing the Past*

Thursday, 12/17/15

3:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Three sentences were posted on the wall:

“CAN YOU HEAR YOUR PAST?”

“CLOSE YOUR EYES AND LISTEN.”

“HOW FAR CAN YOU HEAR?”

On the table near the doorway, I put paper and pens and a small sign that said: “WHAT DID YOU HEAR?”

The audience participated silently, sitting on the benches and listening with their eyes closed, then going to the table to write about what they heard.

**DAY 39**

*Seashore*

Friday, 12/18/15

3:30 pm - 9:30 pm

I moved ten rocks incrementally along the floor, the last becoming the first. I followed the lines of the floorboards back and forth, starting at one side of the room. If time were simultaneous, the entire floor would be covered in rocks.

**DAY 40**

*Leaves*

Saturday, 12/19/15

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

Accelerating time.

I turned dead leaves into dirt. I cut the leaves into tiny pieces with scissors, and then pounded them with a little water using a pestle in a mortar until they were ground into mud.

**DAY 41**

*More Time*

Sunday, 12/20/15

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I posted the question on the wall:

“WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU HAD MORE TIME?”

I sat at the table in the corner of the room, and individual audience members sat with me. I interviewed them, making note of their answers in my book, and then compiled a master list of responses, which I put on the wall.

**DAY 42**

*Solstice*

Monday, 12/21/15

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I spent the day in darkness.

I sat at the table and lay my head on my arms, with the shawl over me so that I was completely covered.

Occasionally I alternated it with sitting up, still with the shawl over my head and face.

**DAY 43**

*Ocean*

Tuesday, 12/22/15

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I sat on the floor in front of the chair with the rock, with my legs extending out under the chair. I listened to the rock, my hands cupped between it and my ear. Occasionally I also lay back on the floor, pressing the rock to my ear to listen and covering the other ear with my other hand.

#### **DAY 44**

*Free Time*

Wednesday, 12/23/15

3:30 pm – 9:30 pm

I used my computer and portable printer to make certificates for free time. I asked people what kind of time they wanted and entered a description specific to each individual on the certificate. I printed out the form that entitled her or him to that time, and signed it so that it was authorized and official.

#### **DAY 45**

*Dreams*

Thursday, 12/24/15

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I read aloud from Alan Lightman's *Einstein's Dreams*. Each chapter is a poetic visualization, a vignette that describes a world that operates in a different kind of time. I read some chapters more than once.

Friday, 12/25/15 – Christmas

Museum closed, no performance.

#### **DAY 46**

*Waiting*

Saturday, 12/26/15

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I sat in a chair, leaning my forehead on my arms on the top of the back of the chair with the rock, which was directly in front of me, waiting.

#### **DAY 47**

*Counting Backwards*

Sunday, 12/27/15

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I counted out loud backwards from 5,800, the number I had gotten to when I counted on Day 2. Surprisingly, despite the added difficulty of going backward, I reached 0 less than half a minute before the end of the six hours, which I did not expect.

#### **DAY 48**

*Another Plane*

Monday, 12/28/15

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I placed one chair on its side on the floor and lay on the floor in front of it, as if the chair had just tipped over with me in it. I was facing the other chair, which was upright, with the rock on its seat. My eyes were open, looking at it.

#### **DAY 49**



*Ice vs. Snow*

Tuesday, 12/29/15

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

We had our first snow, so I brought in the two tall glass vases, filling one with ice balls that I had made in my freezer, and the other with snow that I collected from the museum parking lot. It was a race, and I took votes from the audience on which would melt first. 120 voted for the snow melting first, 61 for the ice melting first, 10 for them melting at the same time. I had to bring the containers home to finish the race. The snow finished melting at 8:14 pm and the ice at 9:55 pm.

## **DAY 50**

*Breaths*

Wednesday, 12/30/15

3:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Using a calculator, I entered each breath that I took, recording a cumulative total. The printed tape (+1+1+1,etc) stretched across the floor. Occasionally I held my breath, challenging the audience to a contest of holding their breath as long as possible. I reached 3,444 breaths.

## **DAY 51**

*Moving*

Thursday, 12/31/15

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

On Day 50 I had found the rock on the table when I came in, even though it had been on a chair when I left on the previous day. How did it get there?

I covered the table with the alpaca throw, which reached to the floor. I put the rock in the middle of the table and sat on one side with the other chair on the adjacent side of the table. I watched the rock intently all day. It didn't move while I was watching it.

Friday, 1/1/16 – New Year's Day

Museum closed, no performance.

## **DAY 52**

*Clock 1*

Saturday, 1/2/16

10:30 am – 4:30 pm

I started making a wooden mechanical clock. There are 143 steps in the directions. I only made it through step 17. I asked the visitors to read to me to pass the time. They read from Alfred Crosby's *The Measure of Reality: Quantification and Western Society, 1250–1600*.

## **DAY 53**

*Clock 2*

Sunday, 1/3/16

10:30 am – 4:30 pm

I kept working on the clock and completed steps 18–47. People continued to read to me from *The Measure of Reality: Quantification and Western Society, 1250-1600*.

## **DAY 54**

*Clock 3*

Monday, 1/4/16

10:00 am – 4:30 pm

I started half an hour early, hoping to finish the clock. I got to step 85, but there are some missing parts, so I will finish the clock when they arrive from the manufacturer. People read to me from Carlo Cipolla's *Clocks and Culture, 1300-1700*.

#### **DAY 55**

*Estimating*

Tuesday, 1/5/16

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I sat behind the table and invited people to sit in the other chair at the table and close their eyes for an experiment in estimating time. They chose whether they wanted to estimate 1, 3, 4, 5, or 15 minutes, which I measured with sand timers. I asked them not to count to themselves but to just try to feel the time. I used a stopwatch to record their estimate. The rest of the audience sat on the bench and watched the sand timers and the person in the chair estimating.

#### **DAY 56**

*Drops*

Wednesday, 1/6/16

3:30 pm - 9:30 pm

I dripped water from an eyedropper onto the large rock continually. I had the spotlight on it, so that the drops of water sparkled as they fell off the dropper. I used 6 oz. of water, and at the end of the six hours there were particles of sand in the water in the dish below. According to information on the weatherization of granite in New England, it would only take 10,000 years for that rock to become sand. That was when I recognized that I understood time differently, when I thought "only ten thousand years."

#### **DAY 57**

*Unscheduled Time*

Thursday, 1/7/16

3:30 pm - 9:30 pm

I sat at the table, with the other chair on the adjacent side. I invited audience members to sit in the chair for an interview, and the rest of the visitors sat on the benches and listened, awaiting their own turns. I asked first if they had unscheduled time in their lives, and how much. I also asked if they thought of it differently from leisure time. We discussed other concepts of time, including wasting time, killing time, filling time, and buying time.

#### **DAY 58**

*Half-Hours*

Friday, 1/8/16

3:30 pm - 9:30 pm

I made two parallel lines of six rocks, ten feet apart. I used the larger rocks first, and then along one side placed a smaller rock next to each of the larger ones.

I sat on a folding stool, starting at the back, facing the audience, and moved a small rock along the floor two inches each minute. Each row took half an hour, and so for the first half of the time I was moving closer to the audience on the long bench, and for the second half of the evening I was moving backward. I finished where I began.

#### **DAY 59**

*Hawking 2*

Saturday, 1/9/16

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I read aloud from Stephen Hawking's most recent book *The Grand Design*, written with Leonard Mlodinow. Starting from the beginning, I read 142 of 181 pages. It focuses on using quantum theory to explain the history of the cosmos.

## **DAY 60**

### *Minute Circles*

Sunday, 1/10/16

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I drew 357 circles on a large square of paper; each circle took one minute to complete. I watched an analog clock with a second hand to time the circles. I had to set up the paper and pencils at the beginning, which took a few minutes, so I could not complete 360 circles.

## **DAY 61**

### *Hour Circles*

Monday, 1/11/16

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I walked around the room six times; each circuit took an hour. My feet were always moving, albeit extremely slowly. The chair with the rock was in the center, and I positioned my chair at the hour mark, where I sat for five minutes when the clock chimed.

## **DAY 62**

### *Beans 1*

Tuesday, 1/12/16

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I had two pounds each of dried pink beans, black-eyed peas, and black beans. I covered the table with the beans, making three bands of color. Then I began to move the black beans and the pink beans into the other's section, one bean at a time, alternating each time. Eventually a wave of the other color emerged in the two sections. A painting.

## **DAY 63**

### *Spiral*

Wednesday, 1/13/16

3:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Using oil pastels, I drew a spiral continually, starting on the outer edge of a square piece of paper on the table, then moving into the center and back out again repeatedly. The spotlight melted the oil in the center of the paper, making a perfect oil-saturated sphere.

## **DAY 64**

### *Lost Smells*

Thursday, 1/14/16

3:30 pm - 9:30 pm

I sat at the table near the doorway of the gallery, with a sign on the table that said "PAST TIME." As people came in, I handed each a pencil and a paper with instructions written at the top: "PAST MEMORIES: Sit down and close your eyes. What smells from your past are gone now? Can you describe them?" When they finished writing, they hung them on the wall, and read what others had written. 107 people wrote.

## **DAY 65**

### *Numbers*

Friday, 1/15/16

3:30 pm - 9:30 pm

I wrote consecutive numbers, starting from 1, on a 150-foot roll of tracing paper. The paper made a wonderful sound, billowing as it piled up on the floor, as I moved across it writing the numbers. When I reached the end of the paper, I moved my chair to the other side of the table, continuing the numbers. I reached 4,485.

## **DAY 66**

*Beans 2*

Saturday, 1/16/16

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I spread about three pounds of the mixture of black beans, black eyed peas, and pink beans in a single layer on top of the table. Then I sorted them, exchanging them until colors were together. Shapes of color emerged, like rivers across the table. I completed sorting them just a few minutes before 4:30.

## **DAY 67**

*Clock 4*

Sunday, 1/17/16

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I worked on building the mechanical clock and got to step 111. To pass the time, audience members read aloud from Dava Sobel and William J.H. Andrewes's *The Illustrated Longitude*.

## **DAY 68**

*Philosophy of Time*

Monday, 1/18/16

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I read aloud from *A Brief History of the Philosophy of Time*, a recent book by Adrian Bardon, covering Western concepts of time from the Greeks to the present.

## **Day 69**

*Clock 5*

Tuesday, 1/19/16

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I finally finished building the mechanical wooden clock. It took twenty-eight hours of sanding, gluing, sawing, and adjusting. While I was working, people read Claudia Hammond's *Time Warped* aloud to me and whomever else was in the room. I finished the clock and hung it on the wall around 3 pm, set everything in place, and started the pendulum swinging. Then, I watched the clock.

## **DAY 70**

*Future*

Wednesday, 1/20/16

3:30 pm - 9:30 pm

I had the two chairs in the center of the room, next to each other. I sat on one and the rock was on the other. On the floor at my feet was the black alpaca blanket, folded into a six-foot by three-foot long rectangle. I sat and stared at it, thinking about my future.

## **DAY 71**

*New Planet*

Thursday, 1/21/16

3:30 pm - 9:30 pm

I worked with the audience to create an image in the room. We installed blue lines made of yarn, which radiated from the rock on the table in the center of the room. Eventually the room was filled with blue lines that ran high up to the walls, across to the floor, and even straight down beneath the table.

## **DAY 72**

*Seconds*

Friday, 1/22/15

3:30 pm - 9:30 pm

I wanted to visualize seconds, specifically the 21,600 seconds that make up six hours. And so I had twelve clear glass bowls in a circle on the table. I placed a dried bean in one each second, going around and around the circle. It seemed, however, a surprisingly small amount, when looking at the bowls at the end.

## **DAY 73**

*No Regrets*

Saturday, 1/23/16

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I sat at the table near the door with a sign on the front of it that said, "FUTURE TIME."

In front of me was a stack of paper, each printed at the top with:

"YOUR FUTURE

WHAT MUST YOU DO IN YOUR LIFE,

IN ORDER TO HAVE NO REGRETS?"

Early on I added verbal instructions: "Be specific, it is okay to be selfish, and please don't look at other people's answers before you finish writing yours."

267 people participated.

## **DAY 74**

*Puzzle*

Sunday, 1/24/16

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

It was snowing in the morning, and so I thought to pass the time on a snowy Sunday by putting together a jigsaw puzzle. I brought in Habicht's 1,000-piece puzzle of the color. The audience members gathered around the table on as many stools as we could squeeze in, talking together as they worked on it.

## **DAY 75**

*Alone*

Monday, 1/25/16

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

Everything was put away, except one chair in the center of the room. I sat with my eyes closed, thinking about being alone in my old age.

## **DAY 76**

*Estimating #2*

Tuesday, 1/26/16

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I set up the table in the middle of the room, so that the audience and I could test our sense of time while walking. We walked around the table slowly, eyes closed, taking one minute or two,

without counting to ourselves. I timed their estimates of how long they were walking with a stopwatch.

### **DAY 77**

*Sea*

Wednesday, 1/27/16

3:30 pm - 9:30 pm

The chair with the rock was in the far corner of the room. Flowing out from under the rock was a large black cloth that nearly filled the room. I lay underneath it, my hand extending out from under one edge, my palm facing upwards.

### **DAY 78**

*Days*

Thursday, 1/28/16

3:30 pm - 9:30 pm

I brought a long roll of paper to write down every day that I have been alive. It is 23,462 days. I only had time to record 5,438 of them, to March 27, 1966. I was curious about how many days of one's life can actually be remembered. I asked people if they could tell us their earliest memory and identify the year. We had discussions about how assigning dates is something that is learned with age, and that one uses other identifiers for earlier memories—locations, siblings, weather, holidays, or major family or national events.

### **DAY 79**

*Narrowing*

Friday, 1/29/16

3:30 pm - 9:30 pm

I set the two chairs side by side near the doorway, facing the far corner of the room. One chair had the rock on it. I sat on the other chair. Over the six hours I moved my chair, inching it along, into the far corner, until my knees and forehead touched the wall. It was a narrowing of the world.

### **DAY 80**

*Close Attention*

Saturday, 1/30/16

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I began to examine each of the 256 small stones under the bright spotlight, often putting water on them to heighten the colors. I separated them into three categories: my favorites, ones to be reconsidered, and rejects. I only had time to look at 68 of the stones.

### **DAY 81**

*Hiding*

Sunday, 1/31/16

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I put my chair in the middle of the space, facing the long bench, and the other chair with the rock in the corner. I sat on the floor behind that chair, my back in the corner, and covered myself with a sheer black cloth. I could see everything in the room, but no one could see through it to see me. Many people assumed that I wasn't in the room and never saw me.

### **DAY 82**

*Pacing*

Monday, 2/1/16

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I paced back and forth along the long wall of the gallery. I put a piece of paper on the floor, hoping that my footsteps might mark the paper, but my shoes made no mark. If I hadn't stopped in time, however, there would have been blood on the wall from my fingertips sweeping it on each pass. I walked back and forth 1,316 times, taking 14,476 steps.

### **DAY 83**

*Transfer #2*

Tuesday, 2/2/16

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I transferred water from one glass to another with an eyedropper. It took exactly six hours to transfer the 12.5 oz. of water, The drops were lit by a spotlight and were visible as they fell through the air and splashed in the water below. It was a total of 4,936 drops.

### **DAY 84**

*Dispersion*

Wednesday, 2/3/16

3:30 pm - 9:30 pm

I sat in a chair facing the corner of the room, with the large rock on the floor in the corner. In my lap were the 256 small stones, wrapped in a shawl. I had the scarf over my head and was wearing black gloves. I dropped seven stones, unpredictably, every ten minutes. Sometimes I had them in one hand or another, sometimes more than one; sometimes I threw them down; sometimes I let them slide off my open hand as I gradually lowered my outstretched arm, gravity determining the outcome.

### **DAY 85**

*Sorting*

Thursday, 2/4/16

3:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Today the audience helped me sort and count the beans. I had twelve pounds of beans of three different colors and types that were completely mixed. We sorted them into colors while counting a total of 24,645 beans. Then we began to count the individual colors, but only reached 6,371 black beans before the evening ended.

### **DAY 86**

*After*

Friday, 2/5/16

3:30 pm - 9:30 pm

I had the table in the doorway with a sign that said, "AFTER." I asked people if they would write an answer to a question and hang it on the wall. I handed them a pencil and a piece of paper with these two sentences printed at the top:

"WHEN YOU ARE GONE

WHAT WILL YOU LEAVE BEHIND?"

122 people wrote responses.

### **DAY 87**

*Patterns*

Saturday, 2/6/16

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I had fourteen small stones from Cape Cod beaches, which were very smooth; some were round and some flat, white, grey, and yellow. I could hold them all in one hand. I mixed them up in my hands, and dropped them on the table. Each time very interesting and entirely different patterns appeared from the random dropping of them. Perhaps this could be a way of foretelling the future.

## **DAY 88**

*Record*

Sunday, 2/7/16

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I decided to write what I was thinking in a single line on a roll of adding machine paper, taping together the rolls as I reached the end. I started by describing everything that I was hearing and seeing, but soon began to also write about what I was thinking. The audience read the more than 700 feet of the paper rolls as they unfurled on the floor.

## **DAY 89**

*Spring*

Monday, 2/8/16

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

It was snowing, so I wanted to encourage spring to arrive sooner. I invited people to help me cover the gallery floor in grass and water made out of blue, green, and white painter's tape. By the end of the six hours the floor was nearly completely covered, with very inventive plots of land.

## **DAY 90**

*Gradation*

Tuesday, 2/9/16

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

Sitting at the table, which I covered in a black cloth, I sorted four pounds of pink beans according to color, placing beans that were nearly white in one corner and beans that were dark brown in the opposite corner, with the unsorted mixture of the beans in the middle. I kept choosing the lightest or darkest bean and moving it to the inner border of the respective light or dark area, creating the gradation of color.

## **DAY 91**

*Keeping Up*

Wednesday, 2/10/16

3:30 pm - 9:30 pm

I had many time devices on the table. There were five sand glasses, measuring increments ranging from one minute to one hour. None of them were really precise. I had my iPhone with a Grand Clock app ticking and chiming on the quarter hours, amplified by small speakers. A Little Ben app on the iPad was ticking loudly and chiming from the overhead speakers in the room. I had two electric digital clocks, whose times didn't stay matched. I had a wind-up alarm clock. The mechanical clock on the wall was ticking. I had six timers: three digital ones and three manual ones. I had a stopwatch. AND I made a lemon clock! I couldn't keep up with them all; they kept ringing, running out, running down, stopping.

## **DAY 92**

*Waiting 2*

Thursday, 2/11/16



3:30 pm - 9:30 pm

I placed my chair behind the one with the rock in the far corner, facing the doorway. I stood behind the chair with the rock, my hands on the back, always looking out through the doorway. Sometimes I sat in my chair, but still I was staring out through the doorway. Then I would stand again, always watching, waiting.

### **DAY 93**

*Your Turn*

Friday, 2/12/16

3:30 pm - 9:30 pm

A sign hanging on the front of the table at the door said, "YOUR TIME," and on top was another sign that said, "IN SILENCE PLEASE." I had a bowl of cards with instructions. When people came I said, "I am asking people to perform an action in the room. Would you like to do it?" The instructions were a choice of sitting perfectly still as long as possible, standing perfectly still as long as possible, walking across the room in slow motion, or standing and rotating around once as slowly as possible.

### **DAY 94**

*Smells*

Saturday, 2/13/16

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I was blindfolded and sat with the second chair next to me, so that people could sit with me. When people sat in the chair, I breathed in their scent took their hands in mine, sat with them, then leaned down and gently brought the back of their hand to my nose. I wrote in the book what I smelled, but people couldn't see what I wrote.

### **DAY 95**

*Black Sand*

Sunday, 2/14/16

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I sat at the table with a mound of black sand. Buried in the middle of it was the rock. I slowly began pushing the sand off the table. I always pushed it over at the same place, so a similar cone began to form on the floor, growing as the one in the middle of the table shrank. In the last ten minutes the rock was revealed.

### **DAY 96**

*Gravity*

Monday, 2/15/16

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I started out near the doorway, sitting at the table. I lined up twelve rocks on the tabletop and slowly slid each rock across it into my lap until only one rock remained. Then I gradually tilted the table forward, letting the rock slide across the surface and finally fall to the floor. I tried to make it last as long as possible. On completion, I pushed my chair back a foot, pulling the table with me. I repeated the cycle every half hour, with one fewer rock, leaving a trail of them as I retreated to the far corner of the room.

### **DAY 97**

*Planet Earth*

Tuesday, 2/16/16

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

I read aloud from the book *The Life and Death of Planet Earth* by Peter D. Ward and Donald Brownlee. I read from page 101-194, which provides a very graphic description of the demise of the planet as the sun gets hotter: the end of plant life; the end of animals; the loss of the oceans, evaporating into space; and finally a discussion of what traces humans will leave in the universe.

## **DAY 98**

*Orbits*

Wednesday, 2/17/16

3:30 pm - 9:30 pm

I began by sitting in a chair next to the one with the rock. I carried the large rock around the room, spiraling into the center, where I put it on the floor. I orbited it for the rest of the six hours, sometimes walking quickly, sometimes walking slowly, sometimes crawling, spiraling inward and outward.

## **DAY 99**

*Salt*

Thursday, 2/18/16

3:30 pm - 9:30 pm

In advance of the performance, I piled salt into a long mound equivalent to my weight and height. I lay under a blanket, parallel to it. Sometimes I was on my back, sometimes on my side looking at it. My eyes were open the entire time. This day I was dressed in white, unlike all the other days when I wore black.

## **DAY 100**

*Flowers*

Friday, 2/19/16

3:30 pm – 9:30 pm

I had nine closed tulips blossoms in three vases. I invited the audience to join me in watching them open over the course of the six hours.

## **DAY 101 and BEYOND**

*Beyond*

Saturday, 2/20/16

I left a bowl of small instructional cards for the audience to take. There were multiple copies of twenty-five different instructions, ranging from, “What are you postponing?” to “Spend a day without your cell phone.” There were about 220 cards in the bowl, and they were gone before 3 pm.