

HI-RED CENTER¹ (1971)

Hi-Red Center²

COLLECTIVE, ALSO ABBREVIATED HRC. Established theory is that the group name was created by combining the English for the first characters of the surnames of the three presumed founding members, 高 of *Takamatsu Jirō*, 赤 of *Akasegawa Genpei*, and 中 of *Nakanishi Natsuyuki*, in that order.

Hi-Red Center's objectives resist easy definition, as many researchers vary in their interpretations of them. Through their major missions, the group aspired to discover and create strange incidents, develop occasions, study pure communication, activate breezes and drafts, transmit demagoguery, promote cleanliness and order in the metropolitan area, explore the border of the everyday and the non-everyday, agitate the everyday, develop objects for curiosity, develop secret rituals, explore the proliferation and spread of objects, study the future state of beggars, develop the multiplicity of being, and undertake projects concerning string, wrapping, model money, clips, and fingerprints, etc.

Little research has been published on the group's doctrines, advocacies, and theoretical background.

There is a record that dates the group's founding to May 1963, but other theories date its beginning to August or September 1962. According to one strict interpretation, the founders were merely entrusted with a certain request, and thus we must trace the group's precise beginning back to the approximate moment when humankind emerged.

Many records list Izumi Tatsu as a member alongside the aforementioned three founders. However, these four so-called "official personnel" were but a small part of the entire membership. It is said that there were also many unofficial personnel (also known as "underground personnel") or anonymous center members.

Recent studies indicate that membership was fluid, with substantial increases or decreases observed depending on the circumstances. Some researchers contend that there was no clear distinction between official and unofficial members. Furthermore, one study demonstrates that the peculiarity of Hi-Red Center's organization lies in the fact that only a highly limited number of members, whether official or

1 [This text was presumably written by Hi-Red Center, but is presented in the guise of an "authorless" encyclopedia entry composed in an objective, authoritative tone. It constitutes an artistic (or, more precisely, Anti-Art) endeavor by the group, who deploy here their favorite strategy of "anonymity" to mock themselves as much as they do "researchers" and their scholarship.]

2 [There are a number of variant renderings of the group's English name, both with and without hyphenation. Most notably, while the group styled their name with a hyphen in one of their business cards (Hi-Red Center), as well as in the title of this article, they dropped the hyphen in their 1965 Fluxus edition poster edited by Shigeo Kubota (Hi Red Center).]

unofficial, freely held the right to represent the group—underscoring an assumption that the group was not organized by any strict rules. Based on this, some conclude that Hi-Red Center was not even a collective.

Hi-Red Center’s publicly acknowledged activities are numerous. Among the most important are *Yamanote Incident* (September 1962), *Mixer Plan* (May 1963), *Shelter Plan* (January 1964), and *Campaign to Promote Cleanliness and Order in the Metropolitan Area* (October 1964).³

No activity by Hi-Red Center has been officially documented from 1965 onward, although some researchers regard certain occurrences as evidence of the group’s activities. General theory has it, however, that as the official personnel have been decommissioned—that is, become anonymous entities—the number of unofficial personnel has grown to exceed the group’s past operational capacities. Accordingly, some even speculate that the group’s activities have expanded to all parts of the earth and in recent years even to outer space on a spatial scale, and will continue until the end of humankind on a temporal scale.

(Excerpted from *Encyclopedia Hi-Red Centannica*)

³ [The original refers readers to “pages 89–112 of this issue,” which feature the first installment of Nakanishi Natsuyuki’s testimony at Akasegawa Genpei’s 1,000-Yen Note Trial.]

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