

MARINA ABRAMOVIĆ

With Eyes Closed I See Happiness

Opening: Tuesday 20 March, 2012, 6.30 pm - 9.30 pm

Gallery hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 11.00am - 1.30pm / 2.30pm - 7.00pm

The Galleria Lia Rumma is pleased to present the exhibition of Marina Abramović: *With Eyes Closed I See Happiness* which opens on 20 March 2012 in the Milan gallery. The exhibition is the second of the major events which the artist, the pioneer and key figure of Body Art, will present in the city. On the previous day, she will present *The Abramović Method* at the PAC museum.

Both events are new projects – and, indeed, the phrase “an artist should never repeat him/herself” is part of her “Artist’s life Manifesto” – the first to be presented after the titanic performance *The Artist is present*, given at MoMA in New York in 2010. For three months, each day and for seven hours a day, the artist presented herself to the public at MoMa by remaining seated, motionless and absolutely silent, opposite a chair that never remained empty. Thousands of people took turns to sit on the chair and an extraordinary flow of energy was created just through the power of the gaze.

In her performances in the seventies, Marina Abramović subjected herself to numerous trials of physical and psychic endurance, challenging every limit and taboo linked to the body, while today the artist is interested in the concept of duration and a more intense relationship with her public. *House With the Ocean View*, *Seven Easy Pieces* and *The Artist Is Present* provide clear proof of this evolution which is now undergoing a further transition.

This is the sense in which the works performed at the Lia Rumma Gallery should be interpreted. The title of the exhibition, which also describes the new state of the artist, comes from a rewarding and regenerating method of exercise: *With Eyes Closed I See Happiness*. It is an attainable truth which reveals infinite possibilities in its implied invitation to look inside yourself, leaving the world far behind.

The importance of this practice is emphasized by a group of sculptures placed on glass pedestals, made from a plaster cast of the artist’s head covered in quartz crystals, tourmaline stones, amethyst, malachite and aragonite. A series of large photographic works contribute to the atmosphere and illustrate the simple and unadorned gestures made by the artist to elevate her spirit.

These silent and exhausting trials of ecstatic contemplation are designed to reach a state of equilibrium, to give importance to things, and to perceive their heat and energy. The empty and emptied space which surrounds the figure of Abramović in the photographs symbolically fixes the action and amplifies the perception of it. The emptiness is there to condense the need for clarity which is the necessary prelude to any type of concentration.

Because only in the dense and illuminated time of meditation and in the active truce of silence is it possible to make space and attain the essence.

Marina Abramović was born in Belgrade in 1946. She lives and works in New York, where she is preparing to open the Marina Abramović Institute for Preservation of Performance Art. In December 2002 she presented the exhibition *Video Portrait Gallery 1975-2002* at the Lia Rumma Gallery in Milan and in 2004 she gave the performance *Cleaning the mirror* at the Lia Rumma Gallery in Naples. She received the Leone d’Oro at the 1997 Venice Biennale. During her career, which spans almost 40 years, she has exhibited and given performances in leading museums throughout the world. These include the Stedelijk Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven (1985), the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, (1990), the Neue National Galerie, Berlin (1993), the Guggenheim Museum, New York, (2005), MoMA, New York, (2010), and the Garage Art Center, Moscow (2011). Last summer the Manchester International Festival and the Teatro Real Madrid presented the theatre project *The life and the death of Marina Abramović*, directed by Bob Wilson.



MARINA ABRAMOVIĆ – EVENTS IN MILAN

LIA RUMMA GALLERY

With Eyes Closed I See Happiness

Opening: Tuesday March 20, 2012 at 6.30pm – *INVITATION REQUIRED*

LIA RUMMA GALLERY: Via Stilicone 19 – 20154 Milan

Tel. +39 0229000101 – info@liarumma.it – www.liarumma.it
gallery opening hours: Tuesday-Saturday 11am-1.30pm / 2.30pm-7pm

PAC – Padiglione di Arte Contemporanea The Abramović Method
curated by Diego Sileo and Eugenio Viola

March 19, 2012 at 6.30pm: opening (by invitation only)
Exhibition: March 21 – June 10, 2012

PAC: Via Palestro 14 – 20121 Milan - www.comune.milano.it Musei e Mostre

Press office 24 Ore Cultura: Giulia Zanichelli - T +39 02 30223739 -
giulia.zanichelli@24orecultura.com
Press office Comune di Milano: Elena Conenna - T +3902 88453314 -
elenamaria.conenna@comune.milano.it

TEATRO DAL VERME *Marina Abramović. The Past, Future and Present of Performance Art*

March 21, 2012 at 9 pm Lecture

TEATRO DAL VERME: Via San Giovanni sul Muro 2 – 2012 Milano

Info and tickets: T. +39 0254915 – <http://dalverme.org>

APOLLO CINEMA

Marina Abramović. The Artist is Present

March 22, 2012, hrs 8pm-10.15pm National première of the movie directed by Matthew Akers

produced by Show of Force for HBO
distributed in Italy by GA&A Productions and Feltrinelli

APOLLO CINEMA : Galleria De Cristoforis 3 – 20122 Milan – T +39 02780390 – info and tickets:
www.spaziocinema.info

MASCIARELLI

VETROSERVICE

LIA RUMMA

milano | via stilicone 19 | 20154 | +39 02 29000101 | info@liarumma.it | www.liarumma.it