

PRESS RELEASE

**MARINA ABRAMOVIĆ**

**Portraits 1975-2002**

**Tuesday November 5th 2002, at 7.00 p.m. Lia Rumma Gallery, Milan, Via Solferino, 44  
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**Opening times: from Tuesday to Saturday, from 11,30 a.m. to 1,00 p.m. and from 3,30 p.m. to 7,30 p.m.**

The personal exhibition of Marina Abramović entitled *Portraits 1975-2002*, which she has created specially for the Lia Rumma Gallery, will be inaugurated On Tuesday November 5, at 7,00 p.m. At the Milan gallery.

Maruna Abramović was born in Montenegro in 1946. From the very outset of her career, in Belgrade during the seventies, she was one of the widely acknowledged protagonists of the international art scene.

The body has always been the instrument of her work while self-control and physical and mental limits have been the parameters. This has led her to create performances centred on physical, psychological and emotional resistance to pain, exhaustion and danger, which are intended to be agents of a personal transformation that activate channels of communication which go beyond rationality.

Marina Abramović's relationship with the public represents for her a source of energy and confrontation compared to the cathartic and liberating effect of her performances.

She gave her first performance in 1973. It was entitled *Rythm 10* by giving a new perspective to a Russian game, the artist makes rapid cuts with a knife that she holds in one hand in the space between the outspread fingers of her other hand which is placed on a table until 20 wounds are inflicted upon that hand. At this point, having recorded the performance, she rewinds the tape and repeat the game by making twenty cuts in exactly the same points, trying to fuse past and present.

Her first performances, which were totally ephemeral, were documented exclusively by means of crude black and white images and brief descriptive texts.

Any attempt to reflect upon the expressive forms employed by Abramović cannot avoid consideration of her personality. She herself states that the artist can only draw upon personal experiences for inspiration and material with which to work.

Marina Abramović regards talking about the future as a way of illuminating the past.

With this installation, presented for her first for her first exhibition at the Lia Rumma Gallery, the artist goes back her life and career as performer through a series of videos showing vivid close-ups of her face taken during her performances. A video made this summer at Stromboli will be shown at the exhibition for the first time.

The artist will be present at the Gallery.