

**GOCA Foundation – Gallery of Contemporary Art Palermo
presents**

**Vanessa Beecroft
VB62**

**Saturday 12th July 2008, from 6.30pm to 9.30pm
Church of Santa Maria dello Spasimo, Palermo**

Entrance is free but subject to the capacity of the venue.

On Saturday July 12, 2008, artist **Vanessa Beecroft** will hold a performance, entitled VB62, in the Church of Santa Maria dello Spasimo in Palermo. The show, the first event curated by the **GOCA Foundation**, is supported by the **programme Sensi Contemporanei** of the **Ministero dello Sviluppo Economico, Regione Siciliana Assessorato al Turismo, Comunicazioni e Trasporti - Dipartimento Turismo, Sport e Spettacoli**, the **City of Palermo, Galleria Lia Rumma** (Milan/Naples) and **Galleria Massimo Minini** (Brescia).

Vanessa Beecroft, who was born in Genoa in 1969 and currently lives in Los Angeles, and whose work frequently explores the female condition using complex performance projects, will give her **first public performance in Sicily** on July 12, from 6.30pm to 9.30pm at the Spasimo.

The choice of the venue for the presentation emphasizes the links of the project with the tradition of late baroque Sicilian sculpture, in particular with the work of Giacomo Serpotta (1656–1732, Palermo). Serpotta, described by Donald Garstang as “the most important stucco artist in Europe” and by Giulio Carlo Argan as “one of the major sculptors of the Eighteenth Century”, created a revolution in style, transforming the traditionally simple use of stucco into a refined and fashionable art form.

In the sixty second performance by Vanessa Beecroft, a group of **gesso sculptures** and a group of **women**, present in the area below the apse of the church, refer to the famous Sicilian sculptor while raising questions about notions of the real and the unreal. Maintaining an unbridgeable gap between the figures and the public, their separateness prevents final clarification of the question who is really there and who is only an image.

After the performance, the sculpture work will be on extended view at the Galleria Civica d'Arte Palermo from July 17 until October 26, 2008.

Since her debut in 1993 Vanessa Beecroft has shown work in many of the world's major art galleries and museums including: Pescheria di Rialto, Venice, Italy (2007, Biennale di Venezia); Gana Art Gallery, Seoul, Korea (2007); National Gallery, London, UK (2006); Espace Louis Vuitton, Paris, France (2006); Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin, Germany (2005); Kunsthalle Bielefeld, Bielefeld, Germany (2004); TWA Terminal 5, JFK Airport, New York, USA (2004); Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Turin, Italy (2003); Sao Paulo Biennial, Sao Paulo, Brazil (2002); Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice, Italy (2001); Palazzo Ducale, Genoa, Italy (2001); Guggenheim Museum, New York, USA (1998); P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, Long Island City, New York, USA (1994).

Details:

Artist: **Vanessa Beecroft**

Title: **VB62**

Curated by: GOCA Foundation – Gallery of Contemporary Art Palermo

Sponsors/Support: Sensi Contemporanei, Ministero dello Sviluppo Economico, Regione Siciliana - Dipartimento Turismo, Sport e Spettacoli, Comune di Palermo, Lia Rumma Gallery (Milan/Naples) and Massimo Minini Gallery (Brescia)

Realisation of sculptures: prof. Giuseppe Agnello, prof. Salvatore Rizzuti, Antonio Rizzo

Date: Saturday July 12, 2008, from 6.30pm to 9.30pm

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Address: Church of Santa Maria dello Spasimo, Via dello Spasimo 13, Palermo

Information: GOCA Foundation, via Torremuzza 19 Palermo, www.gocapalermo.it

Exhibition of sculptures

Address: Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna, Sant'Anna complex, via Sant'Anna 21, Palermo

Dates: July 17 – October 26, 2008

Opening times: from Tuesday to Sunday. 9.30am – 6.30pm

Info: www.galleriadartemodernapalermo.it; tel +39 091 8431605

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