

VLASTA DELIMAR

CONTEXT section

curated by Pernilla Holmes

BOOTH: E 20

viennacontemporary 2024

12.9. -15.9.2024

LIVE PERFORMANCE at our booth

Vlasta Delimar: The Right to an Orgasm at Over 60

12.09.2024, 6 pm

14.09.2024, 2 pm

**A captivating retrospective that transcends boundaries and time,
unveiling the evolution of a pioneering artist.**

Vlasta Delimar is considered one of the most radical performance artists from former Yugoslavia and has established herself as a prominent figure in the contemporary Croatian art scene. She is renowned for her provocative and boundary-pushing works, aiming to liberate the female body from societal constraints. Her artistic journey spans four decades and reflects the transformation of identity and the female body in art.

Delimar uses her own nude body as the central medium of her art to question society's objectification of the female body. In her performances, photographs, collages and films, she penetrates taboo zones and aims to liberate the female body from the shackles of social norms. Her works are recalcitrant and challenge conventions.

The exhibition provides a comprehensive overview of Vlasta Delimar's artistic journey, spanning from her early works to the present day. It marks an impressive 45 years since her debut performance in 1979, titled "Attempt at Identification," which she co-performed with Željko Jerman at the iconic Podroom Gallery in Zagreb. Her first solo performance, "Transformation of Personality" (with clothes, make-up, hairstyle), followed in 1980/81 at the SC Zagreb Gallery. These vintage photographs from her solo performances are being shown to the public for the first time.

In addition to these early works, the exhibition features numerous photos and videos exploring the roles of men and women, with Delimar subtly highlighting the position of women in various contexts without offering criticism, but rather inviting reflection on these roles. In her oeuvre, she repeatedly expresses her heterosexual desire and lust, evoking both fascination and outrage among viewers. Vlasta Delimar photographed herself with naked men, performing explicit sexual acts and using the female body as a medium for communicating her message.

Delimar uses her art as a platform to draw attention to social, political and cultural problems and to fight against hierarchical power structures. She strives to give women back control over their own bodies, and to deconstruct the objectification of the female body in society.

In one of her artistic approaches, Delimar often reduces the photographic image of the human body to an elemental representation of genitals. And subsequently, she adds stereotypically elements associated with femininity, such as lace, ribbons, and buttons. This leads to a hyperbolization and carnivalization of the female or male body in which desire and eroticism become a norm-free space.

Overall, Vlasta Delimar can be described as an intellectual, feminist performance artist whose works address a wide range of issues and evoke emotional, intellectual, and social responses. Her art is significant to the contemporary art world and contributes to the discussion of identity, gender, and power.

PRESS IMAGES / TEXT

We would appreciate a report/mentioning in your medium.

We hereby confirm the approval for the free of charge publication of all sent images / text.

Courtesy: Vlasta Delimar / galerie michaela stock

For media inquiries, high-resolution images, or interview requests, please contact:

Michaela Stock or Alisa Wolf info@galerie-stock.net

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Image1:

Transformation of personality, 1981

performance Student Cultural Center Zagreb, 1981, series of 18 vintage photos,
each 22 x 15 cm, framed

Courtesy: Vlasta Delimar / galerie michaela stock / photos by Boris Cvjetanović,

Image 2:

Cock on Tongue, 1983

Collage, b/w silver gelatin print / vintage, lace, tempera, tulle
40 x 30 cm, framed

Courtesy: Vlasta Delimar / galerie michaela stock

Image 3:

Lady Godiva, 2001

Lambda C-Print mounted, edition: 8 + AP, 122 x 80 cm

video, performance-documentation, 2001, Zagreb (HR), 16,50 min, edition: 5 + AP

Courtesy: Vlasta Delimar / galerie michaela stock / photo by Fredy Fijačko

galerie michaela stock

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