

Press release

Muratcentoventidue-Artecontemporanea

Anahita Razmi

Domino Dancing

Galleria Muratcentoventidue is pleased to present *Domino Dancing*, the first solo exhibition in Italy by the internationally acclaimed artist Anahita Razmi.

Anahita Razmi studied art and media design in Weimar, New York and Stuttgart. The works of the artist, born in Hamburg in 1981, can be placed between video and performance art. In many projects, Razmi establishes links between her father's country of origin, Iran, and her German home. She makes work that deals with issues concerning identity and gender by employing objects with a national and cultural significance; sometimes borrowing and citing the work of other high-profile artists. Working within the tradition of appropriation and re-enactment, Razmi detaches cultural symbols from their established meanings by employing them in unexpected situations and contexts. In 2011 she realized *Roof Piece Tehran*, a remake of the famous dance performance "Roof Piece" by Trisha Brown on the roofs of New York city in the 1970s, under difficult conditions in Teheran. The need to keep the project a secret in a country where modern dance is forbidden is tangible in Razmi's twelve-part video installation. In January 2013, the artist realized with her performance "Re / Cut Piece" in Dubai, a re-enactment of the legendary performance "Cut piece" by Yoko Ono (1964) transferring the original performance from their feminist context of the 1960s to contemporary Dubai.

Anahita Razmi has already taken part in various exhibitions, her solo shows include presentations at Kunstmuseum Stuttgart (2012), Kunstverein Friedrichshafen (2011) and Kunstverein Hannover (2013). She received several prestigious awards and scholarships, including the MAK-Schindler Scholarship, Los Angeles (2012) and the Emdash Award of the Frieze Foundation (2011).

The video *Domino Dancing*, which gives the title to the exhibition, is showing a group of dancers participating in a Dance Marathon Party, that was organized in a Tehran living room in January 2014. As the only party music, the chorus line of Pet Shop Boys Hit "Domino Dancing" is repeated over & over again (ALL DAY ALL DAY WATCH THEM ALL FALL DOWN, ALL DAY ALL DAY, DOMINO DANCING). The dancing to these two lines goes on for hours, until - one by one - the dancers drop out of the race.

Dancing, mixed gender parties, western music & alcohol are officially forbidden in Iran, - still people gather in private homes to sidestep restrictions. The work is relating to that hidden way of rebellion, - but by using the format of a dance marathon, the symbolic uprising is superimposed by an exhausting and demoralizing loop of ever-repeating body movement. WATCH THEM ALL FALL DOWN sings Neil Tenant over and over again, the forecast of the dancers dropping out, one after another, is inevitable.

Dance Marathons were especially popular in the US in the Twenties / Thirties. In a time of recession, the dancing had little to do with exuberance - contestants mostly needed money and audience was happy for cheap entertainment. Within *Domino Dancing* this chosen format defines the video performance, building

up bidirectional relations between dance as an expression of freedom and dance as a back-breaking sisyphian task.

The video installation *Arsenals* consists of a video projection and a line of black water pipes. The video is showing a portrait of the artist, who is blowing clouds of smoke into the camera in an endless series. The video images, playing in slow motion, are accompanied by strung together extracts of movie soundtrack compositions. The pieces of music originate from a selection of catchy movie scenes: catastrophes, climaxes, showdowns, moments of tension / suspense. The repetition of the minimal body movement in combination with the loaded musical composition produces a minimal but at the same time strongly stylized image that is referring to popular cinematic strategies and effects. The staged climax is replaced and covered by a smoke screen, which is transforming the physical activity into a pathetic buzzword. A number of black sprayed water pipes are placed in front of the video projection. Their original function is abstracted by color and array, within the installation they might recall an arsenal of weapons.

The videoinstallation *House of Strength* consists of a videoloop and an octagonal colored floor sticker. The video is showing the artist in a five-fold juxtaposition practicing the iranian sports "Varzesh-e Bastani", which is executed with traditional equipment in a "Zurkhaneh" (House of Strength). The sport is only executed by men in Iran, - women are not allowed in the clubs. Initially disturbing this patriarchal base of the sport, the work *House of Strength* replaces the body of the male athlete with the body of the female artist. The ever repeating exercises are meanwhile reminding of a mechanical process without any output. The octagonal floor installation is referring to the shape of a typical *zurkhaheh* ring, - located somewhere between an abstract geometrical floor painting and a ring, which can be entered by the audience to follow the video.

Venue

Muratcentoventidue-Artecontemporanea

Via G. Murat 122/b – Bari

Opening

Saturday April the 26th, 2014 at 7.30 pm

Period

April the 26th – May the 27th 2014

Opening hours

from Tuesday to Saturday, from 5.30 to 8.30 pm

Info

393.8704029 – 392.5985840

<mailto:info@muratcentoventidue.com>" info@muratcentoventidue.com

<http://www.muratcentoventidue.com>" www.muratcentoventidue.com

<https://www.facebook.com/MuratcentoventidueArtecontemporanea>

<http://carbon12dubai.com>

Anahita Razmi

Born in 1981 in Hamburg

Lives and works in Stuttgart & Hamburg

Education

October 2007 - September 2009

Postgraduate Studies Fine Arts, Staatliche Akademie der Bildenden Künste, Stuttgart
Class of Christian Jankowski (Video/Installation/Performance), Class of Rainer Ganahl

August 2005 - January 2006

Pratt Institute, New York, Faculty of Media Arts and Fine Arts

October 2001 - October 2006

Studies of Media Arts, Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, Diploma, Prof. Christine Hill

Grants / Awards / Residencies

2013 - Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris

2013 - Production Grant, Karin Abt-Straubinger Stiftung

2012 - MAK-Schindler Artists and Architects-in-Residence Program, Los Angeles

2011 - The Emdash Award 2011, Frieze Foundation

2010 - Work Stipend, Edith-Russ-Haus für Medienkunst, Oldenburg

2010 - Nationales Nachwuchsstipendium, Kunstverein Hannover

2010 - Artists Exchange Reutlingen - Szolnok/Ungarn

2009 - Stipend Fine Arts, Stiftung Künstlerdorf Schöppingen

2008 - 2. Price Saar Ferngas Förderpreis Junge Kunst, Kaiserslautern

Exhibitions

2013

November 2013 - „Selma Alacam / Anahita Razmi“, Galerie Bernd Kugler, Innsbruck

November 2013 - „The wall behind something/nothing* happened“, Laznia Centre, Gdansk

Oktober 2013 - „Currency X-change“, Hunt Gallery, Webster University, St. Louis

September 2013 - „Encyclonospace Iranica“, Access Gallery Vancouver

September 2013 - „SMILE“, MAK Center for Art and Architecture, Los Angeles

September 2013 - „Nostalgia Nervosa“, State of Concept/ ReMap4, Athen

September 2013 - „Strom Festival“, Kunsthaus Rhenania, Köln

Juni 2013 - "Swing State", Stadtgalerie Saarbrücken (solo)

Juni 2013 - "Silk Map", Padiglione Venezia, 55th Venice Biennale 2013

Mai 2013 - "1. Pers. Sing.", B-05 Art and Design Center, Montabaur

Mai 2013 - The Second Haifa Mediterranean Biennale, Sakhnin

April 2013 - "Right Brain Problems", Heidelberger Kunstverein

Februar 2013 - "Swing State", Kunstverein Hannover

Januar 2013 - "Automatic Assembly Actions", Carbon12 Dubai (solo)

Januar 2013 - "Present Tense Future Perfect", FELDBUSCHWIESNER, Berlin

2012

Dezember 2012 - "Frischzelle_17: Anahita Razmi", Kunstmuseum Stuttgart (solo)

Oktober 2012 - "Videonale-Donetsk - an exhibition of contemporary video art", IZOLYATSIA Platform for Cultural Initiatives, Donetsk, Ukraine

September 2012 - Sommerfest 2012 | artsprogram, Zeppelin Universität Friedrichshafen

Juli 2012 - „Festival Internacional de Cine“, Casa del Cuno, Costa Rica

Juni 2012 - "Forward / Vorwärts", Carbon 12 Dubai @ Q Contemporary, Beirut

Mai 2012 - "Bucharest Biennale 5: TACTICS FOR THE HERE AND NOW", Bucharest

Mai 2012 - "Jahresgaben", Kunstverein das weisse Haus, Wien

April 2012 - "Neue Klasse", Wiensowski&Harbord, Berlin

März 2012 - "Life is Too Short", Salsali Private Museum, Dubai

März 2012 - "Best Of Best Of Best of", Asociación Libre, Mexico City

März 2012 - "Art Dubai Performance Night", Fort Island, Madinat Jumeirah, Dubai

2011

Dezember 2011 - "Videonale: Dialogue in Contemporary Video Art",

National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung, Taiwan

Dezember 2011 - "Iran Via Video Current", Thomas Erben Gallery, New York

Oktober 2011 - "Tausendundeine Heimat", Vertretung des Landes Niedersachsen, Berlin

Oktober 2011 - 9. Frieze Art Fair 2011, London

September 2011 - "The State: Social? Antisocial?", Traffic, Dubai

August 2011 - "Produced@_Zehn Jahre Stipendium für Medienkunst",

Edith-Russ-Haus für Medienkunst, Oldenburg

August 2011 - "A History Out Of Context", The Promenade Gallery, Vlöre, Albania

Juli 2011 - "Make - Believe - Remake", Kunstverein Friedrichshafen (solo)

Juni 2011 - "Division by Zero", Carbon12 Dubai

Juni 2011 - "Wie geht's dir, Stuttgart?", Künstlerhaus Stuttgart

Mai 2011 - Bremer Kunstfrühling 2011 / Edith-Russ-Haus, Güterbahnhof, Bremen

April 2011 - Videonale 13, Kunstmuseum Bonn

März 2011 - Transforma(k)tionen, Kunstbezirk, Stuttgart

März 2011 - Ausstellungsraum Regenbogen, Utopia Parkway, Stuttgart

Februar 2011 - Best Of Best Of Best Of, Video Group Screening Show, Berlin

2010

Dezember 2010 - "SIN!", Bakehouse Art Complex, Miami

November 2010 - Kunstfilmtag 10, Theatersaal des Künstlerverein Malkasten, Düsseldorf

Oktober 2010 - „Das Ding“, G.A.S.-Station, Berlin

September 2010 - „Ikeallahu Akbar“, Interventionsraum, Stuttgart (solo)

August 2010 - „Strange Relations“, Kert Galeria, Szolnok (solo)

Juni 2010 - "Leinen Los!", Kunstverein Hannover

Juni 2010 - 20. Internationales Videofestival Bochum 2010

Juni 2010 - Crosstalk Video Arts Festival, Budapest

Mai 2010 - "Robberies", Kunstverein Das Weisse Haus, Wien

Mai 2010 - Platform NoBudget, Shedhalle, Tübingen

Mai 2010 - Signal & Noise Media Arts Festival 2010, Vancouver

März 2010 - „If Love is an Ice-Cream“, Flat 1, Wien

2009

Dezember 2009 - „It Has Happened“, TPTP Project Space, Paris

Dezember 2009 - Temporary Museum of Subjective Histories, Tehran-Berlin, 1979–2009,

Ballhaus Naunynstrasse, Berlin

Dezember 2009 - „Autobiographics“, Atelier Wilhelmstrasse 16, Stuttgart

November 2009 - „Übermorgenkünstler“, Heidelberger Kunstverein

Oktober 2009 - Märkisches Stipendium für Bildende Kunst, Städtische Galerie, Iserlohn

August 2009 - "One Minute Film & Video Festival Aarau", Aarau, Schweiz

Juli 2009 - „Summer Reading“, Invisible Exports, New York

Juli 2009 - „Krautschneider“, Galerie Lisi Hämmerle, Bregenz

April 2009 - „A Wall is a Screen“, Frauenfilmfestival Dortmund/Köln

April 2009 - Saar Ferngas Förderpreis Junge Kunst, Kunstverein Ludwigshafen

April 2009 - "Broken Tales", Shanghai Theatre Academy, Shanghai, China

März 2009 - "America's Next Topmodel", Klasse Jankowski, Berlin

Februar 2009 - Saar Ferngas Förderpreis Junge Kunst, Galerie Schlassgoart, Luxembourg

Januar 2009 - FrischeKunstMarkt, Stuttgart

2008

Dezember 2008 - Saar Ferngas Förderpreis Junge Kunst, Stadtgalerie Saarbrücken

November/Dezember 2008 - GVS Förderpreis Junge Künstler, Stuttgart

Oktober 2008 - „Last Rites“, Tensta Konsthall, Stockholm

Oktober/November 2008 - Saar Ferngas Förderpreis Junge Kunst, Pfalzgalerie Kaiserslautern

August 2008 - „Young at Art“, Galerie SEE 301, Zürich, Kooperation ZHDK

Juli 2008 - „White Night Film“, 51 Stufen, Flensburg

Juni 2008 - „Iceberg enters Obelisk“, Whitechapel Gallery, London

Mai 2008 - Schöwelpreis für künstlerische Fotografie, Ausstellungsraum, AbK Stuttgart

April/Mai 2008 - „Relocating Absence“, Elevator Gallery, London

April/Juni 2008 - „Kunstspiel“, Kunstbezirk, Stuttgart, Galerie Gustav- Siegle -Haus

April 2008 - FEX Medienkunstnacht, Lange Nacht der Museen, Stuttgart

April 2008 - „AP246“, agent-provocateur.ch

Januar 2008 - „Testbild“, Gesamtausstellung, AbK Stuttgart

2007

November 2007 - „Two Days Only“, "Fruit & Flower Deli" Gallery, New York

September 2007 - „takt 9“ Förderpreis Junge Kunst, Zürich

Juni /Juli 2007 - „Homo Bellicus“, Kulturzentrum Christiania, Berlin

Juni 2007 - Theaterfestival „Okkupation“, Zürich

2006

Oktober 2006 - Diplomausstellung „Leichte Aktionen“, Limona Glaskasten, Weimar

2005

Oktober 2005 - „Drawing“, Pratt Institute, South Hall Gallery, New York

Juni 2005 - „fore/sight“, Weimarahalle, Weimar

April 2005 - „Das Eigene & Das Fremde“, ehemalige Grundschule Johannes Falk, Weimar

2004

Juli 2004 - Contact VJ Festival, Café Moskau, Berlin

Februar 2004 - K&K Kiosk Weimar, „Schleier -Schutz, Symbol, Repräsentation“

Talks / Lectures / Etc

April 2014 - Kunstraum Riechen, Talk & Screening,

Anahita Razmi in conversation with Heidi Brunnschweiler

March 2014 - Ö1 Nachtquartier, Anahita Razmi in conversation with Hans Groiss
November 2013 - Same Same Different, Master of Fine Arts Symposium,
ZHdK, Zurich, Talk & Workshop
September 2013 - abc Berlin, Booth Carbon12,
Anahita Razmi in conversation with Christian Malycha
March 2013 - Kunstverein Hannover, Artist Talk,
Samuel Henne, Anahita Razmi, Fabian Reimann
February 2013 - Lunchtime Talk, OG9, Kunsthhaus Aussersihl, Zurich
October 2012 - Presentation/Lecture, Sazmanab Platform for Contemporary Arts, Tehran
September 2011 - Gasworks London, Talk & Screening,
Anahita Razmi in conversation with Sam Thorne
October 2010 - Talk / Presentation, Edith-Russ-Haus für Medienkunst, Oldenburg
Ralf Baecker, HeHe, Anahita Razmi
July 2010 - Kunstverein Hannover, Artist Talk,
Samuel Henne, Anahita Razmi & Fabian Reimann
January 2009 - Artist Talk, Stadtgalerie Saarbrücken, Saar Ferngas Förderpreis Junge Kunst