

RED STAMP
ART GALLERY
AMSTERDAM

MARILENA VITA **SLEEPLESS SOUL** PERFORMANCE | VIDEO | PHOTOGRAPHY



SHOW: 12 DECEMBER 2014 - 10 JANUARY 2015 | **OPENING:** 11 DECEMBER 2014 - 16:00 / 20:00

PERFORMANCE THE END IS THE BEGINNING: 11 DECEMBER 2014 - 17:00

RED STAMP ART GALLERY - RUSLAND 22 - 1012 CL AMSTERDAM - THE NETHERLANDS

WWW.REDSTAMPARTGALLERY.COM - INFO@REDSTAMPARTGALLERY.COM

MARILENA VITA: ARTIST SELECTED FOR **ORA PRIZE INTERNATIONAL** 2013

AN EXHIBITION IN COLLABORATION WITH **SABRINA RAFFAGHELLO CONTEMPORARY ART**

RED STAMP
ART GALLERY
AMSTERDAM



RED STAMP
ART GALLERY
AMSTERDAM

Red Stamp Art Gallery - Amsterdam

In collaboration with
Sabrina Raffaghello Contemporary Art - Milano

presents

SLEEPLESS SOUL

Performance - Video - Photography

Personal Exhibition of Marilena Vita

Artist selected for

ORA Prize International 2013

Opening:

11 December 2014 – 16:00 / 20:00

Exhibition: 12 December 2014 – 11 January 2015

Execution of the Performance THE END IS THE BEGINNING:

11 December 2014 – 17:00

Address: Red Stamp Art Gallery – Rusland 22 – 1012CL Amsterdam – NL

[See on the map >](#)

Curated by : Sonia Arata and Sabrina Raffaghello

Text by Sonia Arata

SLEEPLESS SOUL is the first exhibition in Amsterdam of the Italian artist Marilena Vita; this show will deepen the video-performative side of her multifaceted artistic production and will present for the first time, at Red Stamp Art Gallery, a corpus of 14 videos realized between 2000 and 2012, in which she engages herself as a performer, director and video artist.

Parallel to the screening a series of 12 photographs related to moments of performance will be exhibited (a selection of still frames from the videos).

During the opening Marilena Vita will execute the performance THE END IS THE BEGINNING, for the first and only time: it's a precise choice of the artist never to repeat her acts

MARILENA VITA, born in Syracuse on the 15th of October 1972, operates internationally; she has exhibited in numerous solo and group shows in Italy, US, China, Greece, Scotland, Germany, Czech Republic, Iran and Africa. Several authors and critics have written about her, among whom Gillo Dorfles, Edward Lucie-Smith and Carmelo Strano.

Marilena Vita works with different mediums (painting, installation, photography, video art, performance) with the aim to bring to light universes and conditions which she encountered in the private dimension of the soul, to allow herself and the viewers to deal with situations and experiences belonging to a universal imagination.

She deals with essential themes: processes of awareness, travels, inner researches and metamorphosis, vital transitions, sexuality, the body, feminine universe, motherhood, life and its incessant rebirth in an endless alchemy.

With politeness and delicacy the artist succeeds in attracting and involving the viewer in a psycho-visual process through the use of very personal and dreamlike images which, at the same time, are linked to reality. The subjective view of the observers is allowed to work on them and to complete the reading through their own vision; this process however, due to the nature of such images, can never be definitive.

Performance, video and photography represent for Marilena Vita three interconnected mediums, to which often installation is added.

For the realization of the happening, the artist first prepares a sort of travel path, figures out a starting point and a destination and defines to this purpose a sketched screenplay, a sort of plot, a scenography or a location, a theater of the action, with lights, costumes and props. Then comes the time of the actualization, in which Marilena Vita enters the scene actively by interpreting and identifying herself with the situation: the goal is to make herself

and the spectators face the happening of an event.

Marilena Vita never repeats her performances and does not even establish a precise choreography of expressions, gestures and movements to be reproduced during the execution of the performance; she does not rehearse: only at the start of the scene Marilena will cross the threshold which divides the daily reality from that parallel "elsewhere" which she will enter, becoming, for the duration of the action, something other than herself.

Through video and photography Marilena Vita elaborates, on the contrary, a complementary vision from the outside, it's the time of the choice and post-production, where the still or sliding pictures, that remain to testify and to transmit the event, take on a primary role; they are not merely captured moments from a dynamic sequence, but fields, composed paintings gifted with aesthetic and scenic impact, juxtaposed and superimposed sequences which poetically exalt inclinations and fascinating details.

RED STAMP ART GALLERY – AMSTERDAM

SLEEPLESS SOUL

Performance - Video - Photography

Personal Exhibition of Marilena Vita

Artist Selected for

ORA Prize International 2013

www.premio-ora.it

Opening:

11 December 2014 – 16:00 / 20:00

Exhibition: 12 December 2014 – 11 January 2015

Execution of the Performance THE END IS THE BEGINNING:

11 December 2014 – 17:00

Address: Red Stamp Art Gallery – Rusland 22 – 1012CL Amsterdam – NL

Curated by : Sonia Arata and Sabrina Raffaghello

Texts by : Sonia Arata and Carolina Lio

Red Stamp Art Gallery

Sonia Arata

Rusland 22

1012 CL Amsterdam – NL

info@redstampartgallery.com

<http://www.redstampartgallery.com/>

+31 6 46406531

+31 20 4208684

+39 347 1917003

Show in collaboration with

Sabrina Raffaghello Contemporary Art – Milan

<http://www.sabrinaraffaghello.com/>

About images:

for high resolution images please contact: press@redstampartgallery.com

For low resolution images see the ones hereby enclosed.



Marilena Vita - Still frame from the video of the performance: "The sun in the city"- At Palazzo Ducale, Sale del Castellare – Urbino - IT – (Exhibition "Third Renaissance", 2010)



Marilena Vita - Still frame from the video "M.a.t.e.r"



Marilena Vita - Still frame from the video of the performance "Sick Heart" - At Primo Piano LivinGallery - Lecce - IT - 2008



Marilena Vita - Still frame from the video "Ella Esto"



Marilena Vita - Still frame from the video of the performance "Lullaby" - At Civic Gallery of Contemporary Art "Montevergini" - Siracusa - IT – 2010



Marilena Vita - Still frame from the video "Antinea"

MARILENA VITA, A SLEEPLESS SOUL

By Sonia Arata

Marilena Vita works with different mediums (painting, installation, photography, video art, performance); the way she employs them follows a common thread: the aim is to bring to light, to the existence in the real world, universes and conditions which she encountered in the private dimension of the soul, in the intimacy of the psyche, to allow herself and the viewers to test, learn and deal with situations and experiences on a common ground, which belongs to a universal emotional body and imagination.

She deals with essential themes: processes of awareness, travels, inner researches and metamorphosis, vital transitions, sexuality, the body, feminine universe, motherhood, life and its incessant rebirth in an endless alchemy.

With politeness and delicacy the artist succeeds in attracting and involving the viewer in a psycho-visual process through the use of very personal and dreamlike images which, at the same time, are well defined and linked to reality, but without being too marked: the lack of a unique and objective message, the neutrality of unidentifiable places and times, and the presence of symbolic elements allow the subjective view of each person to work on them, the interpretative intervention of the observer is necessary to the fulfilment of the artwork, which is truly accomplished only through this relationship: the viewers are called and involved with grace in order to complete the meaning through their own vision and by bringing their personal tone; this process however, due to the nature of such images, can never be definitive.

Performance, video and photography represent for Marilena Vita three interconnected mediums, to which often installation is added.

For the realization of the happening, the artist first prepares a sort of travel path, figures out a starting point and a destination and defines to this purpose a sketched screenplay, a sort of plot, a scenography or a location, a theater of the action, with lights, costumes and props. Then comes the time of the actualization, in which Marilena Vita enters the scene actively by interpreting and identifying herself with the situation: the goal is to make herself and the spectators face the happening of an event, the epiphany of a nodal moment, a passage: she operates from the inside and gets into the part almost as if she was letting herself get "possessed" during some sort of channeling.

Marilena Vita never repeats her performances and does not even establish a precise choreography of expressions, gestures and movements to be reproduced during the execution of the performance; she does not rehearse: only at the start of the scene Marilena will cross the threshold which divides the daily reality from that parallel "elsewhere" which she will enter, becoming, for the duration of the action, something other than herself, making the members of the public privileged live witnesses of some sort of event of the soul, first-hand viewers of an intimate authentic moment of existence of the protagonist of a fairy tale or of a mythological character. The body of the artist becomes an instrument of the soul, nothing is definite, the present is switched on, every instant is always simultaneously an end and a beginning.

In fact Marilena Vita's performances are not unilateral, but transitive, they do not intend to shake, shock, break through the defenses of the viewer: their aim is instead to make him a witness of a unique event, which takes place between reality and the beyond that she evokes.

The uniqueness of the execution, that's not repeatable, confers strength, truth and something numinous to the act, sacredness and closeness to life, where necessarily the first take has to always be the right one and every action happens live and, without the filter of a rehearsal, for the first and only time.

Through video and photography Marilena Vita elaborates, on the contrary, a complementary vision from the outside: it's the time of the choice and post-production, where the still or sliding pictures, that remain to testify and to transmit the event, take on a primary role; they are not merely captured moments from a dynamic sequence, but fields, composed paintings gifted with aesthetic and scenic impact, juxtaposed and superimposed sequences which poetically exalt inclinations and fascinating details, where the lyrical narrative reference is combined with a soft and gentle aesthetic need, joined with an elegiac vibration and a sense of unfinished apt to approach a truth different for everyone, with thousand facets.

The frame from the video becomes an image in its own right that can live on its own, as a fragment contains the genetic code of the whole; reciprocally, the photographic series in which the artist portrays herself remember and follow the same logic of moments captured from sequences of glimpsed and then lived universes.

In this use of various mediums aiming to make accessible and known a cosmos that would only be interior, in this bringing into existence perceived universes with purity and seriousness of intent, there is something that reminds of our childhood world, being in fact the game a serious activity which, as that of the artist, connects inner places with the outside with resolution and authenticity.

In Marilena Vita's artistic research there is also a subtle, precise, fresh and sweet healing energy where indifference does not find a place, an inclination to heal, to bring to recognition and unity what has been lost or is not clear, through a delicate metamorphosis: the energy of the feminine side that wants to lead us back metaphorically to what is home; the artist creates moments in which we can catch a glimpse of a way out, like small catharses that open up new visions, as a kiss that dissolves the spell, because it signifies contact with another reality, sought by a sleepless soul, that never remains and rests, like an Alice with a watchful gaze, as a Dorothy who, each time she returns to her abode, leaves again for another journey within no-time.

Sonia Arata, Amsterdam, 26/11/2014