

**MINISTRY OF NOMADS**

GALLERY | SALON | ART FOUNDATION

## **Aktion / Re Aktion.**

### **Performance by Maryam Amini.**

#### **A Narration .**

##### **day 1**

Restriction on exhibiting paintings of the artist  
Transference of the suffocation that artist feels ...a reaction to restrictive social environment..

Inviting the viewer to observe pure art away from peripheral  
Showing forbidden work using the female body [also forbidden] and  
placing artist's body in a three dimensional restrictive space

[breathing oxygen]

use of diving apparel and breathing oxygen , as remedy to the toxic environment

and as signs to illustrate the tension felt by the underground artist  
inviting the viewer into her inner self and hidden space by exposure to the glaring light in the room , leaving it open to interpretation and conjecture.

[recording time 4 hours]

same time period . Two consecutive days

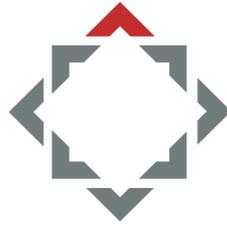
recording passage of time : political/cultural/personal ,  
the time coinciding with a very restrictive and important religious event in the artists' homeland

[forbidden work]

a book of drawings ... a visual diary rooted in childhood , eroticism , death

documenting presence of the audience through CCTV and sound recording to  
place them in the space that artist wants them to be...inserting the audience in  
a location inadvertently causing the viewer into becoming the viewed

shock of facing the artist in an environment filled with light and muffled sounds



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( achieved by the use of sound baffling headgear..) causing audience confusion and motivating them to view art in an alien environment and becoming co-players of the artist

[control/discipline/challenge]

Forcing the audience to wait in groups of three

facing the work [a series of drawings in a notebook , a rather new format ]

creating a curious situation in which the viewer is made to question the necessity of the complexity created for the performance as opposed to a more intimate safe environment

## **day 2**

immediately the viewer is faced with a dark tunnel purposely built to force the audience to crouch

[choice/respect]

The cue of first day is converted to a two channeled tunnel inferring a choice and as a sign of respect for the directional leanings of the viewer

the channel in left which is devised as a decoy takes the viewer to recognizable space and groupings of people [ back to society]

the right /correct channel leads the audience into a space were two monitors are showing the recordings of the previous day.

One monitor showing the room and the progress of audience in groups of three , where at times artist disappears from the view field.

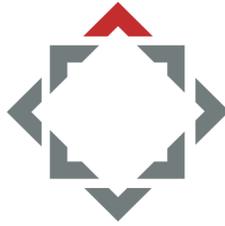
The recordings at most of times are not exact or revealing adding to the mystery

and the obscurity of the event . Video fees from the previous day objectify the tension felt by the artist during the performance.

[transformation/beauty/self]

transformation of the event into an art esthetic by conversion of the viewer into the viewed and subject into object

[alteration /transition /conversion ]



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alteration of basic motives used by artist in her 2 dimensional paintings into 3 dimensional space , adding the 4<sup>th</sup> element of time over the four hour recording

transition of motives by exchanging the waiting cue and the diving attire , metaphorically inviting the audience in to inner organs of the body of the artist

conversion of forbidden drawings and their effect on the audience , in to video recording

existence of all recording equipment , and documenting viewer's reaction to the performance , all directed by artist , in an effort to playfully reintroduce the audience to themselves, encouraging them to dig in to the depths of their consciousness . Much like the childlike figures in the drawings of the notebook that are examples of how the artist revisits her childhood and her own fundamental self.