



VIRES
PERFORMANCE CYCLE

VIRES

EXERCISES OF POWER

PERFORMANCE CYCLE

Vires is a Latin word meaning power, force, strength and influence; the word as starting point serves this project, composed of three different parts, to address power through performance and its strong relationship and effect on the audience (society). On its 4 installments and different variations, starting by tackling the weight of symbols and images attached to our interpretation of the body, exercise #1 uses visual symbols, such as the wolf and a leather harness, to generate a dialog and a response to cultural understandings around submission, control and influence. In exercise #2 by tracing back the history of performance art to Marina Abramovic's Rhythm 0 where the audience was called to manipulate objects and affect the artist body; this exercise is a re-articulation of the original piece where the objects have disappeared to introduce luck/fate/destiny represented in a pair of dice. By installing the performer's body in complete openness in relationship with the audience, which has been instructed to throw the dice and execute an action upon the performer's body the number of times indicated by the dice, Choice, in this performance, becomes the core of the action as it addresses the ultimate exercise of individual power as well as the responsibility acquired within free will. The last and third exercise, displays the performer as a recipient and object of desire by tempting the audience to take from the performer's mouth a real diamond that will belong to whom ever has the ability, force or care to take it out of her mouth. The question raised with this last piece is about force and how to use it in order to get the diamond (object of desire). It also opens a dialog regarding the transgression of personal and intimate spaces through force, at the same time clearing the boundaries between audience-performer by transforming the performer in a recipient/custodian of the "desired" object ultimately making the body become the object of desire.

Vires is then, a statement on the fundamental role of the viewer in performance, materializing the power residing on the individual through CHOICE in relationship to critical events and the incidence of that same choice on the way we experience and re-shape the world around us. The possible similarities between the ways we interact with art and the ways we approach and live in the world, can only be reflections of the body we have "produced" as result of cultural evolution through time and its capacity to change and be re-produced again, that the world surrounding it could be the exact reflection of its capacity and not of its deficiency to relate to it.

EXHIBITIONS:

Madre Musuem. Napoles-Italy / Teatro Anatomico. Bologna-Italy / Location One. New York-USA/ NC arte. Bogota-Colombiua/ Miami Art Musuem. Miami-USA

ON THE POWER OF IMAGES

On the power of symbols, images and the creation of new narratives Duration: 1day (6hours)

Where: Naples-outdoor performance

Elements in the performance:

Wolf: Symbol of the origins of western civilization/sacred animal for native Americans/ animal part of endangered species Headpiece: Leather blinder used in horses to allow the horse to only look forward.

Harness: Black leather harness used to restrain motion as well as object to pull the cart where the wolf is mounted.

Description:

A black leather harness attaches the performer to a wheeled cart where the wolf is mounted. The body will carry the wolf around the city, especially through spaces where institutions of power are present.

This piece as a public performance, staged within the normal flow of the city, pretends to create a dialog with the people close the action; a dialog that will emerge from the different points of view in relationship to the symbol of the wolf, its attachment to the body and as a whole, representing the dominant presence and influence of history and memory upon the body in relationship within the present times.









VARIATION 1.1

On trust

Performer replacing the wolf Where: Bologna-Piazza Maggiore

The taxidermy wolf is replaced by the performer, who is lead by the audience to travel around the city. The audience is called to draw 4 basic commands on her back in order to move her around the city. The performer doesn't know the city, doesn't speak the language and most rely totally on the viewer to go back to the starting point. There are no regulations on time, or in the actual interaction only to return the performer to the starting point of the tour.







ON THE POWER OF LUCK

Exercise #2

On fate, destiny and choice Duration: 4 hours

Elements in the performance:

Pair of dice

Description:

The audience enters the space and waits for instructions to be read immediately after entering. The performer is standing in the center of the space with a pair of dice, in her open hands so the audience can actually see the dice. After the instructions are read a member of the audience, walks towards the performer and this person will take one of dice. He/she will throw the dice and will perform an action upon the performers body the number of times indicated by the dice. The performer will allow the member "act" first and in return the performer will execute her action the amount of times indicated by dice she throws.

The interaction happens on a one to one basis.









ON KNOWLEDGE

Elements in the composition:

Leather dress made out of 30 straps, each strap with a lock and a spike underneath.

Description:

The performer is wearing a restrain suit that is attached to her body by 30 leather straps. A lock closes each strap and each lock indicates the location of major and minor chakras in the performer's body. Underneath the lock a metallic, rounded spike will create through time a mark that will allow the public to see, by the time the suit is completely removed, the effect of the suit on the performer's body at the same time allowing the audience to understand that participation is one of the forces behind every act of freedom.

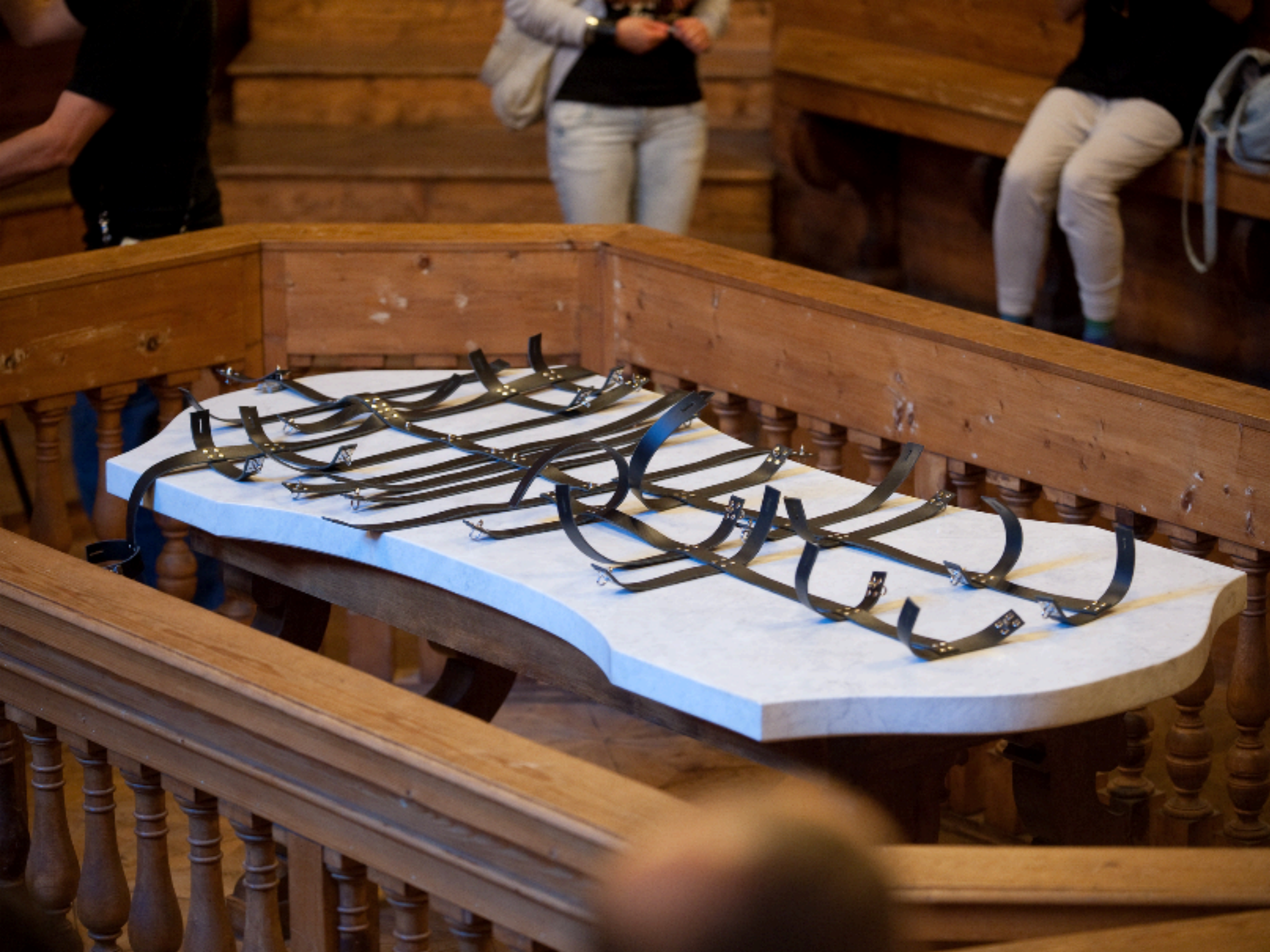
INSTRUCTIONS

The performer is wearing a suit that needs to be taken off by unlocking 30 locks. If you want to participate you will take a key and try to open one of the locks. If you open the lock, untie the leather strap around the performer's body and keep the key. The key is an original piece and it is yours. You can invite a friend of the audience to participate with you.









ON FORCE

Elements in the composition:

Black leather harness One diamond

Description:

Two leather straps around the performers arms will restrain the performer located at the center of the space. An assistant will come to the space and introduce the diamond into the performers mouth. Members of the audience willing to participate will try to get the diamond out of the performers mouth. If a member of the audience takes the diamond out he/she can keep the diamond.

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1-Enter the space and wait until the assistant places a diamond inside the performers mouth (certificate of authenticity at the entrance).
- 2-if you want to acquire the diamond you must take it out of the performers mouth.
- 3- The performance is over when a member of the audience takes the diamond of the performers mouth.







