

**PRESS RELEASE**

**MARINELLA SENATORE. UN CORPO UNICO / UN CUERPO ÚNICO**

**Curated by Ilaria Bernardi**

**November 19, 2020 – February 26, 2021**

**Italian Cultural Institute in Madrid**

The Italian Cultural Institute in Madrid dedicates a solo show to one of the most important Italian artists of her generation, Marinella Senatore (Cava de' Tirreni, 1977), who lived in Madrid from 2005 to 2011, graduating from the Facultad de Bellas Artes of the Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha, where she was then a doctoral student and lecturer in audio-visual language and visual art, as well as lecturer at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid.

Specially conceived by the artist for the Italian Cultural Institute, the exhibition *Marinella Senatore. Un corpo unico / Un cuerpo único* [A Single Body] develops in four rooms.

In the Belvedere Room, Senatore pays tribute to the city of Madrid with the screening of the film *Rosas: Public Opinion Descends upon the Demonstrators*, produced by Matadero and filmed there in 2012. This is the third and final chapter of the trilogy of films *Rosas* (2012) which corresponds to the largest participatory project realized by the artist to date, involving 20,000 participants including associations, schools, individuals and self-organized groups, professionals and local amateurs.

The Belvedere Anexo Room will be screening *The School of Narrative Dance: Ongoing Documentary*, which started in 2013 and is always being updated, illustrating the concept and the stages of *The School of Narrative Dance*, the nomadic and free school founded by Senatore in 2012, which constitutes her best known and continuous project, having developed to date in 29 different cities around the world with the participation of over six million people.

Finally, the Sala Blanca and the Sala Espejos present two new cycles of works, conceived in March 2020 and created for the spaces of the Italian Cultural Institute in Madrid where they are exhibited for the first time. These works mark a turning point in the artist's career as they imply a more specific conception of a theme that has always been crucial for her, the community, formalizing it with a completely new operative practice.

The Sala Blanca hosts the cycle of works *Un corpo unico* (2020) which lends its title to the exhibition. Each one is composed of various elements, spaced at short intervals one from the other and in some cases different in iconographic composition. If seen as a whole and in relation to each other, however, these elements reveal to be the irreplaceable parts of a single 'drawing'. They are therefore a metaphor for how each individual, even in his or her singularity, is an indispensable part of the construction of a community understood as a 'single body', that is, united and participating in the achievement of the common good.

The Sala Espejos brings this reflection on community as a single body to further development through a second new cycle of work entitled *Autoritratto* [Self-portrait] (2020). By asking visitors to leave a sign of their passage on the canvases placed on the three easels in front of the large mirrors in the room, the artist creates a choral self-portrait of the community. It is echoed by the portraits of women's bodies that are subtended by the photographic canvases suspended on the walls. Hidden in part or entirely by monochrome color backgrounds or paper elements, they evoke and warn against the censorious attitude of our homologating society, which makes it difficult to show oneself (or self-portrait oneself) entirely as one is.

## **BIOGRAPHY**

Marinella Senatore was born in Cava de' Tirreni, in the province of Salerno, in 1977 and currently lives and works in Rome.

Trained in music, fine arts and cinema, she is a multidisciplinary artist whose practice is characterized by a strong collective and participatory dimension. Her work blends forms of resistance, vernacular and popular culture, dance and music, mass events and activism. By rethinking the political nature of collective formations, she allows participants to imagine and initiate social change. Intertwining the artist's autobiographical experiences with the participants' narratives, her practice outlines a collective and shared narrative that is expressed not only through participatory actions, but also through drawings, collages, object-sculptures, photographs, videos, installations, and sound works. In 2012 Senatore founded *The School of Narrative Dance*, a nomadic, multidisciplinary and free school, focused on learning and non-hierarchical emancipation. In the place where it takes place each time, the school involves groups of local individuals who voluntarily respond to the artist's call. It includes workshops often followed by urban public action and/or within an exhibition space.

Her activity is now widely known throughout Italy and abroad, thanks to her participation in numerous solo and group exhibitions, in the most important international exhibition spaces including: Centre Pompidou, Paris; MAXXI, Rome; Queens Museum, New York; Kunsthaus Zurich, Zurich; Castello di Rivoli, Turin; Kunsthalle, Sankt Gallen; Palais de Tokyo, Paris; Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Museum of Contemporary Art, Santa Barbara; High Line, New York; Madre, Naples; Les Laboratoires d'Aubervilliers, Paris; Faena Art Forum, Miami; Bozar, Brussels; Kunstverein Ar/Ge Kunst, Bolzano; Petach Tikva Museum of Art; Sandretto Re Rebaudengo Foundation, Turin; Serpentine Gallery, London; ISCP, New York; Palazzo Strozzi, Florence; CCA, Tel Aviv; Extra City Kunsthal, Antwerp; MAC Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, Montréal; Centro de Arte Dos de Mayo, Madrid; Palazzo Grassi, Venice; Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam; Moderna Museet, Stockholm.

Senatore has also participated in important international exhibitions, among which: *MANIFESTA 12*, 2018; *Biennale of Hong Kong and Shenzhen*, 2017; *Biennale de Lyon*, 2015; *Thessaloniki Biennale*, 2015; *Liverpool Biennale*, 2014; *Shiryaev Biennale*, 2013; *Athens Biennale*, 2013; *Havana Biennale*, 2012; *Moscow International Biennale for Young Art*, 2012; *7th Göteborg International Biennial for Contemporary Art*, 2013; *Contour – Biennial of the Moving Image*, Mechelen, 2013; *Bienal de Cuenca*, 2014, *54th Biennale di Venezia*, 2011.

She is the winner of the fourth and fifth edition of the Italian Council (2018-19), and, among the other and numerous prizes she won, there are: the International Art Grant in Dresden, 2017; the MAXXI Award, 2014; the AMACI “Museum Call Artist” Award by AMACI - Association of Italian Contemporary Art Museums, 2014; the Scholarship for Young Artists of the Castello di Rivoli, 2013; the Fellowship at The American Academy in Rome, 2012; the New York Prize, 2010; the Dena Foundation Fellowship, 2009.

Web site: <https://marinella-senatore.com>

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