

ARTISTS SPACE

PRESS RELEASE

WHEN TIME BECOMES FORM

A series of 12 week-long performances

Curated by Marina Abramovic

Inaugural performance:

March 20 to March 24, 2007

Tuesday-Saturday, 11 am-6 pm

Viola Yesiltac



Viola Yesiltac: *Those Lost Trees*

Duration: 1 hour

Summerakademie Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern, 2005

WHEN TIME BECOMES FORM is an ongoing performance series of long-duration work curated by Marina Abramovic for Artists Space. The performance series grows from Artists Space's commitment to experimentation across all art forms and recent efforts to return performance art to its central position within the gallery's activities and exhibitions. The series consists of twelve distinct, but interrelated, durational performances, each created and presented by a different performance artist, each of whom is a member of the Independent Performance Group (IPG). Each of these five-day performances explores and questions issues of concentration, will power, and determination, and uses the entire gallery space for 8 hours during each day of its presentation. The entire series will develop over the course of the next two and a half years.

Developed in 2003, IPG is an independent artists group founded by Marina Abramovic, the self-described "grandmother of performance art." IPG's 42 members hail from 22 different countries and are linked by their shared interest in exploring the boundaries of performance art as well as by their studies with Abramovic. Though varying widely in execution, the performance work created by the members of IPG explores concepts of endurance, concentration, perception, self-control, will power, confrontation, and mental and physical limits. Yesiltac's performance is the first in this series at Artists Space.

In recent years, the German artist Viola Yesiltac has noticed that her performances have begun more and more to resemble photographs—standing against photo studio backdrops, she might make only the most minimal and mundane movements—and her photography has started to look more and more like a performance—palpable traces of activity and feelings hovering in empty spaces.

In her new project at Artists Space, Yesiltac highlights time as the factor charging her practice. An actor will occupy the gallery at all times, standing in front of a photo backdrop sheet. Yesiltac herself will visit the gallery every day and night, to draw on the walls, tracing from slide projections. Juxtaposing these elements, Yesiltac manipulates two types of temporality: the frozen moment of the photograph becomes a natural and inexorable growth of the lines on the wall; the infinitely extended, always unraveling moment of human presence aspires to the fixity of a photograph.



ipg / independent performance group

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