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Marco Anelli „In Your Eyes – Portraits in the Presence of Marina Abramović“

June 14th to August 26th 2012

The exhibit shows a selection of a total of 1545 persons that Marco Anelli photographed as they were sitting face to face with the artist during the performance *The Artist is Present* from Marina Abramović (*1946). These were taken at a Retrospective of the works of performance artist Abramović that was put on by MoMA from March 6th to May 31st 2010. During the entire duration of the exhibit Marina Abramović sat for 75 days, 6 days a week in the hall of the museum.

The visitors had the opportunity to sit across from Abramović for a self determined period of time and look into her eyes. Encased in an intensive white light, the artist and each person sitting across from her were not allowed to speak or to touch each other. Their gaze was the only form of interaction permitted. The visitors could decide for themselves when they wanted to walk away from this situation. Some stayed for only a few minutes, others sat across from Abramović for up to seven hours. In this way, 3090 eyes encountered each other over a table and established instantaneously and unexpectedly a relationship.

The concentration and intensity of this unique calming connection between the artist and the visitors interested Anelli; who captured each individual participant during the entire duration of the performance with his camera. Anelli's work goes far beyond the simple rendering of this unique situation in which he records each gaze, by revealing the deeper emotional presence of the person sitting directly across from Abramović. His portraits alternate randomly between museum visitors and celebrities such as Lou Reed, Sharon Stone, Björk, Patti Smith and Isabella Rossellini.

In each portrait, in each impression, in each photographically held gaze, Marina Abramović is present as a bonding energy without ever being visible. Her presence on-site is the significant core of the performance, which is inversely dependent on the presence of the one sitting across from her in order to be realized. This alternating substantiating presence is brought once again to the point in Anelli's photography; in the sense of a mutual time spent bonding and the impression that is produced from it. With photography it is possible to permanently capture what each performance portrays as unique yet definitely distinguished as irretrievable: the mutually experienced gaze.

Every evening after the exhibit closed, Anelli edited the day's photographs and loaded them onto MoMA's Flickr-Profile page. In so doing, he created a daily increasing parallel association: the photography and the performance project portrayed on the Web. The New York Times reported that by the end of the project, the internet site had been visited by 600,000 people.

PRESS RELEASE



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Marco Anelli, born 1968, lives in Milan and New York. He has been working with Marina Abramović since 2007.

Marina Abramović, born 1946, has significantly shaped Performance Art since the 1970s. From the beginning on, photography and video have played a decisive role in her concepts.

Book published for the exhibit:

Marco Anelli: *Portraits in the Presence of Marina Abramović*, Damiani Editore, Bologna, June 2012

Duration of exhibit: June 14th to August 26th 2012

Opening: June 13th 2012, 7pm, the artist will be present.

**Location: Former site of the Börsenverein des deutschen Buchhandels
Großer Hirschgraben 17-19, 60311 Frankfurt**

More Information and Press Photos:

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This exhibit is a collaboration of the Fotografie Forum Frankfurt, the Fondazione FORMA per la Fotografia, Milan and is part of RAY 2012 Photography Projects Frankfurt/RheinMain, initiated and sponsored by Kulturfonds Frankfurt RheinMain.



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