

ENERGY

Energy in a performance is something palpable, something that almost calls for a physical reaction from the viewer's bodies. We can look at dance and how an individual or group of bodies move. We can feel the vibrations of sounds generated. We can look at how the words are constructed to envelope our bodies. Marina Abramović coined the term body drama, which describes a moment when a performance enters the body and takes full control of the performer's reactions in its environment. It is about loss of control and a surrender to the performance itself.

ARTISTS: MELATI SURYODARMO, NEZAKET EKİCİ, TBL (Tall Blonde Ladies), YINGMEI DUAN

MELATI SURYODARMO

Exergie - Butter Dance, 6'30", 2000

Performance Duration 20'

Performed at Hebbel theatre (HAU 1) in Berlin

Music Daeng Basri Sila and Khaeruddin, Drums of Makassar

Courtesy of the artist

Indonesian-artist Melati Suryodarmo, dressed in a simple black dress and red heels, steps upon 20 blocks of butter and begins to dance to the music of dynamic drumming. As she dances, she confronts moments of uncontrollability, slips, and falls onto the ground. She gets up and repeats this until she no longer can continue. The act of falling and the reaction of rising up is important to the artist and is a metaphor for an attitude towards life.

NEZAKET EKİCİ

Cash Machine, 5'55", 2016

Performance for video

Courtesy of the artist

Cash Machine is about the relationship between money and time across cultures. Nezaket Ekici collected 500 bank notes from over 15 countries, ironed them, and clipped them onto a white dress. To the beat of a metronome, she methodically releases the notes to the floor. Ekici emphasizes the need to "be fast enough, and always stay ahead of time."

NEZAKET EKİCİ

Hullabelly, 2'04", 2002

Performance for video

Camera by Susanne Winterling

Courtesy of the artist

To the tune of traditional belly dancing music, a veiled Nezaket Ekici begins to spin a glitter hula hoop around her neck using only her head. Her face depicts a range of expressions in this painstaking gesture: determination, concentration, and agony. In a moment of reflection after the hoop falls, her stillness echoes the efforts of upholding cultural values.

TBL (Tall Blonde Ladies)

Anna Berndtson and Irina Runge

Podyum, 15'03", 2008

Bu Hariç Ne Olursa 2'10", 2012

Performed on the Swiss Alps

Courtesy of the artists

TBL (Tall Blonde Ladies) is a frequently collaborating artist duo Anna Berndtson and Irina Runge, whose work present the challenges of two bodies connected in situations with impractical shoes. Masked with a sense of humor, the artists also demonstrate an extreme calm control as they attempt to climb the Swiss Alps.

YINGMEI DUAN

The Clown, 1'21", 2001

Performance Duration 5'

Performed at The Braunschweig University of Art (HBK), Braunschweig, Germany

Courtesy of the artist

Yingmei Duan personifies a clown, approaching the audience and laughing one by one at their faces. She presents a forced smile, which is contrasted by an intensity in her gaze, as if there were someone trapped beneath. Duan, adapts a universal character associated with childhood in order to toy with societal norms..