

Marina Abramović Video Purchased for Palm Springs Art Museum by Collectors Forum

Video runs through January 21, 2011



December 6, 2010 (Palm Springs, CA) -- Marina Abramović, one of the most important international performance artists of the past fifty years, is featured in a video work entitled *The Kitchen V, Carrying the Milk*, now on display in the Video Projects room at the Palm Springs Art Museum. The video work is the first significant art purchase by the museum's recently-formed Collectors Forum, which provides financial support for the museum's curatorial collection strategies and offers educational enrichment for its members.

In the Abramović video, included in her widely acclaimed 2010 MoMA, New York, retrospective, the artist continues her earlier themes but places them within the tradition of seventeenth-century Dutch genre painting. A luminous window lights a glowing kitchen as Abramović attempts to hold a brim-filled bowl of shimmering milk without spilling it. The video's scene recalls the

visual impression of works such as Vermeer's *The Milkmaid* (1657) with its use of everyday subject matter to portray the intersection of sensuality and spirituality at the root of human experience. Yet the concentration and strength necessary to translate this moving image into the ideal, suspended stillness of a Vermeer painting tests the limits of the artist's fortitude and the audience's expectations. Viewers watch as Abramović meditates on the bowl of milk in her hands in an attempt to remain as still as possible. Inevitably, she begins to shake as her body tenses and relaxes until her muscles refuse to be quieted, the milk spills, and the sound of splashing interrupts the visual spell. The work brilliantly weaves together the truth of the body, the rhetorical strategies of endurance, and the aesthetic language of beauty. The video runs 12 minutes, 43 seconds.

About Marina Abramović

Beginning with her endurance performance pieces in Europe during the 1970s, Yugoslavian-born artist Marina Abramović has been at the forefront of

innovations in contemporary art, pushing the boundaries and limits of her body, the use of media, and even the definition of art. This color video subtly continues her pioneering work in performance art of the past thirty-five years and demonstrates why her long engagement with these issues is nearly unparalleled and mythic in its investigation of the artist as heroic actor and transgressive visionary.

About the Collectors Forum

The Collectors Forum of the Palm Springs Art Museum is comprised of a group of serious art collectors who support the museum's collecting of modern and contemporary art. The forum includes educational experiences and dialogue between members about art and artists, through programs such as discussions with artists, critics, and other art experts, visits to artists at studios, trips to important exhibitions and art fairs, and discussions with the Museum Director and Deputy Director for Art of possible art purchases.

Image credit: Marina Abramović, *The Kitchen V, Carrying the Milk*, 2009, color video projection on DVD with sound, edition 5/5, museum purchase with funds provided by the Collectors Forum, © 2010 Marina Abramović, Courtesy of Sean Kelly Gallery / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

Located downtown in an architecturally-significant building, the Palm Springs Art Museum features compelling exhibitions and a robust permanent collection of modern, contemporary, Native American, Western and Pre-Columbian and glass art in 28 spacious galleries and in its two outdoor sculpture gardens. The museum offers educational lectures, films and an assortment of programs and art workshops for all ages. The museum's Annenberg Theater features outstanding musical performances. The museum is open six days a week: Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursday from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. with free admission from 4 – 8 p.m. sponsored by the City of Palm Springs. Admission is free to members; \$12.50 for adults; \$10.50 for seniors 62 and over; \$5 for adult students and active-duty military with I.D. and free for youths 12 and under. For more information, call 760.322.4800 or visit www.psmuseum.org.

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