



Small Dance or the Space of my Body

Diana Sirianni

On View April 13 – May 27, 2018

Fresh Window is pleased to present artist Diana Sirianni's first solo exhibition in the United States. Her site-specific, immersive sculpture entitled *Small Dance or the Space of my Body* is a three-dimensional collage and a spatial dance created with diverse materials such as photo prints, wood, metal, nylon threads, pigments, and silicone.

Sirianni always recycles her former work directly or indirectly. Her practice of “constructing deconstruction” disarticulates and recomposes past experiences — fragments of personal and social memory that shape fantastic, poetic worlds which unfold organically in relation to their new environment. *Small Dance or the Space of my Body* arises from the traces and photographic fragments (zoomed-in or out) of past exhibitions in museums, works-in-progress, installations, and illegal paste-ups realized in the urban spaces of Berlin and Rome.

The relationship between body and space is at the heart of the work. Sirianni sees space, even digital space, as an impermanent construction arising from the presence and movement of the body. Space doesn't exist “per se”, only as a phenomenological experience through the body and human action. It's an ongoing investigation that reflects Sirianni's interest and practice in contemporary dance, contact improvisation and somatic therapeutic research.

The artist photographs herself interacting with the sculptural elements — hanging, nailing, holding, fixing, watching, or even climbing. Some of these moments appear as fragmented photo-objects or cut-outs pasted on walls; others appear as fragments of a photographed setting that the artist manipulates to create a new environment where time and space can overlap within the same plane.

The sculptural exhibition space also acts as the negative “cast” or the abandoned shell of an overall organic activity — present or past, live or represented— of the artist* and her body*. It is an archeological sculpture or the traces of a “dance” that register body positions and interactions with objects, which become progressively more precarious and uncomfortable due to the reduction of the space. It narrates a search for a balance between entropy and order, while evoking the progressive identification of the artist's body* and her sculpture.

*The asterisk is there to remind that the body is neither a “neutral” or “natural” body, but a cultural/social construction. Diana Sirianni identifies as a queer female.



Diana Sirianni was born in Rome, Italy in 1982. Before moving to Berlin ten years ago to study visual arts at the Universität der Künste (MA with Gregor Schneider), she studied Philosophy and Esthetics. She spent six months in NYC in 2012 within an academic exchange program at SVA. Her artistic practice crosses the fields of painting, sculpture, photography, architecture, video, relational art and investigates visual, spacial, psychological systems of reference and meaning.

Whereas at the beginning her art was centered on a reflection on the medium and its structures, in the last three years she focused her attention in the investigation of social structures. She displays her work in museums, galleries and project spaces but also in the urban space (legally and illegally) and love to work collaboratively.

She practices co-counseling, a grass-root method for self-development and social change, contemporary dance, yoga and is herself a somatic coacher, an activity that complements financially and humanly her engagement as an artist.

She started an artistic collaboration with the dancer/choreographer Naama Ityel two years ago, realizing workshops about visual, space and body at the UdK “Collage as an Attitude” and “Contact-Lenses” at the museum ZKR (Zentrum für Kunst und öffentlichen Raum). In January 2018 they will facilitate another workshop at the University of Art in Berlin: “Liberating the artists*. Empowerment workshop for artists* in the capitalist era”.

Last Exhibitions: “Zwischen Räume”, ZKU Berlin (2017), “Gewagte Entgrenzungen”, Kunstverein Göttingen, “Drift”, Städtische Galerie Delmenhorst (2016), “Konkret mehr Raum!”, Kunsthalle Osnabrück. “House Hold Fold”, Patrick Heide Contemporary Art, London. “Raumhippogryph II”, Art Cologne, New Positions, featured by Philipp von Rosen Galerie (2015). “Raumhippogryph. Ein wirklich Wesen und kein Zauber war”, Figge von Rosen Galerie, Cologne. “Neubarock”, Cappella Santacroce-Aldobrandini, Rome. “Desorden en Palacio”, Italian Cultural Institute, Madrid (2014). MARTa Herford Museum “Ruhe Störung. Streifzüge durch die Welt der Collage” (2013).