

LISSON

MARINA ABRAMOVIĆ



BIOGRAPHY

Since the beginning of her career in Belgrade during the early 1970s, Marina Abramović has pioneered performance as a visual art form. She created some of the most important early works in this practice, including *Rhythm 0* (1974), in which she offered herself as an object of experimentation for the audience, as well as *Rhythm 5* (1974), where she lay in the centre of a burning five-point star to the point of losing consciousness. These performances married concept with physicality, endurance with empathy, complicity with loss of control, passivity with danger. They pushed the boundaries of self-discovery, both of herself and her audience. They also marked her first engagements with time, stillness, energy, pain, and the resulting heightened consciousness generated by long durational performance.

The body has always been both her subject and medium. Exploring her physical and mental limits in works that ritualise the simple actions of everyday life, she has withstood pain, exhaustion and danger in her quest for emotional and spiritual transformation. From 1975-88, Abramović and the German artist Ulay performed together, dealing with relations of duality. She returned to solo performances in 1989 and for *The Artist Is Present* (2010) she sat motionless for at least eight hours per day over three months, engaged in silent eye-contact with hundreds of strangers one by one.

Abramović was one of the first performance artists to become formally accepted by the institutional museum world with major solo shows taking place throughout Europe and the US over a period of more than 25 years. Her first European retrospective 'The Cleaner' was presented at Moderna

Museet in Stockholm, Sweden in 2017, followed by presentations at the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art in Copenhagen, Denmark, Henie Onstad, Sandvika, Norway (2017), Bundeskunsthalle, Bonn, Germany (2018), Centre of Contemporary Art, Torun (2019), and Museum of Contemporary Art Belgrade, Serbia (2019). The artist's operatic project '7 Deaths of Maria Callas' debuted at the Bayerische Staatsoper, Munich, Germany in 2020, and toured to Palais Garnier, Paris, France (2021); the Greek National Opera, Athens, Greece (2021); Deutsche Oper Berlin, Germany (2022); Teatro di San Carlo, Naples, Italy (2022) and Gran Teatre del Liceu, Barcelona, Spain (2023), and the English National Opera, London (2023).

In 2023, Abramović was the first female artist to host a major solo exhibition in the Main Galleries of the Royal Academy of Arts in London; the exhibition travelled to the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam (2024), Kunsthau Zürich (2024/2025) and Kunstforum Wien (2025/2026). Select solo exhibitions include 'Marina Abramović: Transforming Energy', MAM Shanghai, China (2024/2025); 'Akış / Flux', Sakıp Sabancı Museum, Istanbul, Turkey (2020); 'As One', NEON + MAI, Benaki Museum, Athens, Greece (2017); 'The Space In Between Marina Abramović and Brazil', SXSW, Austin, Texas, USA (2016); 'Terra Comunal – Marina Abramović + MAI', SESC, Pompeia, São Paulo, Brazil (2015); '512 Hours', Serpentine Gallery, London, UK (2014); 'Holding Emptiness', Contemporary Art Center, Malaga, Spain (2014); 'The Life and Death of Marina Abramović' (with Robert Wilson), Park Avenue Armory, New York, NY, USA (2013); 'Balkan Stories', Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna, Austria (2012); 'The Abramović Method', Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea, Milan, Italy (2012); 'The Artist Is Present', Garage Center for Contemporary Culture, Moscow, Russia (2011); 'The Artist is Present', Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY, USA (2010); and 'Seven Easy Pieces' at the Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY, USA (2005). Abramović has participated in many large-scale international exhibitions including the Venice Biennale (1976, 1997) and Documenta VI, VII and IX, Kassel, Germany (1977, 1982 and 1992). She has also established the MAI (Marina Abramović Institute) to support the future exploration and promotion of performance art.

Marina Abramović will be the first living woman artist to be honoured with a major exhibition at the Gallerie dell'Accademia in Venice in 2026. 'Marina Abramović: Transforming Energy', presented during the 61st Venice Biennale Arte, will open on 6 May 2026 and be on view until 19 October 2026.