

Neuberger Museum of Art

Tania Bruguera: On the Political Imaginary

January 28-April 11, 2010

Artist Tania Bruguera has been awarded the first Roy R. Neuberger Exhibition Prize, given to an emerging artist for an early career survey and catalogue. The prize is a natural extension of Mr. Neuberger's lifelong commitment to support the work of living artists. The exhibition will be on view at the Neuberger Museum of Art from January 28-April 11, 2010 and will be accompanied by a comprehensive publication documenting the artist's powerful, innovative installation and performance work. This will be the first survey of Bruguera's interdisciplinary work focusing on the relationship among art, politics, and life, and will include multiple daily performances throughout the run of the show. The exhibition is organized by Helaine Posner, the museum's Chief Curator and Deputy Director for Curatorial Affairs.

Bruguera combines personal experience with a broad social and historical perspective to explore a range of issues including exile, displacement, instability, endurance, and survival in works that are strongly visceral and highly poetic. She initially used her body as the subject of her performances, subsequently employed the bodies of others, and recently turned her attention to the social body developing a new form called *Arte de Conducta*, or "Behavior Art". In this series of works, the artist creates situations that require the audience to respond, not simply observe. The artist has stated, "The intention of my work is to address the subtlety and seductiveness of power, and our own participation in its process. It is about the fragile balance between ethics and desire. . ."

Tania Bruguera: On the Political Imaginary will include a number of re-enactments and re-creations of the artist's ephemeral performances and installations presented at international venues over the past twenty years. These range from Cuban-themed performance works of the 1990s to more recent installations addressing such charged

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geopolitical sites as Havana; Kassel, Germany; Moscow, and Bogotá, Columbia. The 144-page, fully-illustrated exhibition catalogue, published by Charta, includes an introduction by exhibition curator Helaine Posner and essays by Gerardo Mosquera, a Havana-based independent curator, critic, and art historian and Carrie Lambert-Beatty, Assistant Professor of the History of Art and Architecture at Harvard University. A biography, exhibition history, and bibliography are included.

Born in Havana, Cuba in 1968, Tania Bruguera is an assistant professor at the University of Chicago and was founder and director of Cátedra Arte de Conducta from 2003-2009, the first performance studies program in Latin America, located in Havana. Her work has been presented internationally at Documenta 11, Kassel, Germany; three Venice Biennales, and the Tate Modern, London; and included in exhibitions at The New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York; The Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, and the Kunsthalle, Vienna.