

MARIANA VASSILEVA



Never Carry Two Watermelons Under One Arm, 2013

Video, PAL, color, sound, 3:30 minutes

Mariana Vassileva's charming cross-cultural video performance, *Never Carry Two Watermelons Under One Arm*, is an homage to her Bulgarian grandmother, whose sayings and aphorisms have stayed with the artist her whole life. Through an array of delightful visual puns, Vassileva shows us how diverse cultures, despite their linguistic differences, can have remarkably similar sayings. 'Hit the nail on the head.' 'Time heals all wounds.' 'Clothes make the man.' Language can transcend cultures and borders. And communication is the basis of trust. Perhaps we should all have listened more to our grandmothers' wisdom in order to learn to trust one another despite our differences.

BIO

Mariana Vassileva (born 1964 in Bulgaria. Lives and works in Berlin.)

Mariana Vassileva graduated from the Universität der Künste, Berlin, in 2000, and has remained in Berlin since that time. Working across varied mediums such as video, sculpture, installation, and drawing, Vassileva's practice is concerned with the poetry that lies beneath the quotidian and the routine. Based upon observation of daily life, her works respond to an element of playfulness inherent in artist and viewer alike. With the curious gaze of a voyeur or of an urban anthropologist, the artist observes people and their surroundings in order to capture a moment of poetic imagery. Watching, and the distance it implies, are both method and subject of a body of work reflecting on human concerns familiar to us all: communication, cultural displacement, relations with self and other, loneliness and the humor hidden within the rhythms of the day-to-day.

Mariana Vassileva is an internationally acclaimed interdisciplinary artist, having shown in major institutions including: Musée d'Art Contemporain de Montréal (Canada); Tate Britain (UK); Centre Pompidou (Paris, France); Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía (Spain); Museum of Fine Arts (Boston, USA); The Israel Museum (Jerusalem); Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg (Wolfsburg, Germany); Weserburg Museum für Moderne Kunst (Germany); Kunsthalle zu Kiel (Germany); Edition Block (Berlin, Germany); The Stenersen Museum (Oslo, Norway); Total Museum (Seoul, Korea); Hong Kong Arts Centre (Hong Kong), and many others.

Mariana Vassileva has participated in numerous international Biennials, including: the 1st Biennial del Fin del Mundo, Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, (Argentina, 2007); the 17th Biennale of Sydney, *The Beauty and the Distance: Songs of Survival in a Precarious Age*, (Australia, 2010); the 4th Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art, *Rewriting Worlds*, (Russia, 2011); Biennale Vento Sul in Curitiba, (Brasil, 2012); the 56th October Salon, Belgrade Biennale, *The Pleasure of Love*, (Serbia, 2016), amongst others.

Vassileva's works are held in international public collections, including: Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg (Wolfsburg, Germany); Rene Block Collection (Berlin, Germany); Koc Museum (Istanbul, Turkey); The Israel Museum (Jerusalem, Israel); La Caixa, Caja de Ahorros de El Monte y Fundacion el Monte (Spain); Lemaitre Collection (London-Paris); Kunsthalle Emden (Germany); Lidice Memorial.