



Prometeo Gallery Ida Pisani

Maria José Arjona | Regina José Galindo | Silvia Giambrone | Maria Evelia Marmolejo | Mary Zygouri

You owe me one

Essay by **Elsa Barbieri**

Five different readings to reconstruct the story of being in debt

opening: January 26, 2023, 18:00

27 October – 09 March 2023

Via Privata G. Ventura 6, Milano
www.prometeogallery.com

Prometeo Gallery Ida Pisani is pleased to present *You owe me one*, a group show with Maria José Arjona, Silvia Giambrone, Regina José Galindo, Maria Evelia Marmolejo and Mary Zygouri.

From a formal point of view *You owe me one* shows what rest of a performance. Not only in terms of photographic, video and object documentation, but also and especially as a sacrificial path of vindication.

The exhibition proposes five different lectures, bearing the name of the five of the most radical women artists of our times, as a methodology through which it is intended to attempt to build the history to being in debt, recognizing the masks that its origins have worn throughout Western history.

In a contemporary that validates all the dynamics that have made the indebtedness of individual lives the condition of their own domination, Maria José Arjona, Silvia Giambrone, Regina José Galindo, Maria Evelia Marmolejo and Mary Zygouri choose the body as the privileged instrument to unveil the disturbing logics by which power takes hold of human nature, denying the fundamental rights enshrined in the 1948 "Universal Declaration of Human Rights".

Taking the body as a conceptual tool for the expression of identity and cultural politics, *You owe me one* shows how of its adaptation infinite are the nuances, wounds and traces.

By transcribing the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" into the language of the body Maria José Arjona creates a suspension in time and space that demands that we pay close attention, as well as blind trust, so that the body can once again connect, rather than divide, and encourage social, political and cultural exchange. In her recovery of the sensible and the intimate relationship with life in a society characterized by a very provisional and personal construction of meaning, Arjona opens to a return to primitive origins, through which it seems that immersion in nature, ritual and the primal rise to objects of a quest, conducted through the body. In this perspective can be read the works of Maria Evelia Marmolejo, who makes the body an ultimate refuge, filling the void of being, caused by the conditions of current existence, and Mary Zygouri, who through the body, and its action, engages and shakes against the violation and mistreatment of physical space. Two other readings come

from Silvia Giambrone, who uses body as a response that allows one to feel one's own existence, making others recognize it as well, and Regina José Galindo, who through her own body denounces the condition of imprisonment as a long rite of degradation and humiliation, of dispossession and loss of self-possession.

The use of the body emerges in these artworks as the extreme attempt, of bodies, to be recognized as subjects and metaphorically expresses the phenomenon that, from an individual point of view equal to a collective one, invests everyone's existence: being at fault, being in debt.

The exhibition is accompanied by a critical essay by Elsa Barbieri and will be open until March 9.

Biographies

Maria José Arjona born Bogotá, Colombia, in 1973 and lives and works between New York and Bogotá. Arjona has centered her career on performance, placing special emphasis on those of long duration with the goal of stimulating the mechanisms of processing, memory and energy. She has exhibited in solo and group shows in Europe, Latin America, Asia and the United States.

Regina José Galindo born in Guatemala City, Guatemala, in 1974, where she currently lives and works. Her works universally explore the ethical implications of social injustice, gender and race discrimination, and other abuses caused by unjust and power-dominated relationships in today's society. He has exhibited in solo and group exhibitions in Europe, Latin America, Asia and the United States. In 2005 she was awarded the Golden Lion at the 51st Venice Biennale, in the Young Artists category. In 2011 she was awarded the Grand Prize of the Ljubljana Biennale of Graphic Arts.

Silvia Giambrone born in Agrigento in 1981 and lives and works between Rome and London. She works with performance, installation, sculpture, video, and sound. Her research focuses on subterranean forms of subjugation. He is ambassador for Kaunas European City of Culture 2022. Numerous exhibitions in Italy, Europe, the United States and Asia. In 2019 he won the VAF Award, in 2022 he received the Tokyo Film Award, Best Short Film, Tokyo Film Award, Best Inspirational Film, Best Experimental Short Award - Lady filmmakers festival, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles and Award of Recognition: Women Filmmakers - Accolade global film festival, Los Angeles.

Maria Evelia Marmolejo born in 1958 in Pradera, Colombia and lives and works in New York City. Marmolejo has been active since the early 1980s, participating in exhibitions both in Colombia and internationally, including: the 19th Bienal de Arte Paiz (2014) Guatemala City, Guatemala; Contemporary Colombian Art Metropolitan Gallery Pancho Fierro, Lima; re.act. feminism - a performing archive at Centro Cultural Montehermoso Kulturunea, Vitoria Gasteiz, Spain; Institute Sztuki Wyspa, Gdańsk, Poland; Fundación Antoni Tàpies, Barcelona; III Triennial of Bogota, Museum of Modern Art Bogota, Colombia; Contemporary Art Museum and Art Gallery of Guayaquil, Guayaquil, Ecuador; XXIX National Salon for Visual Artists, Pasto, Colombia.

Mary Zygouri born in 1973 in Athens. She lives and works between Greece and Italy. She employs various mediums always using performance as her fixed point of reference. Her actions usually take place in public spaces, provoking unpredictable outcomes and the critical participation of the viewer. Zygouri has participated in various solo and group exhibitions, including Documenta 14, Athens, Kassel; Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design & Space and Benaki Museum; 6th Athens Biennale; 2nd Thessaloniki Biennale.