

PRESS RELEASE

Daria Martin - Anna Halprin

Minotaur

from 16 December 2011 to 4 February 2012

from Tuesday to Friday 10 am- 1 pm; 3-7.30 pm Saturday 3-7.30 and on appointment

opening Thursday 15 December 2011 7-9 pm

Raffaella Cortese is proud to present a new double show featuring London-based filmmaker Daria Martin (b. 1973, San Francisco) and American performer and choreographer Anna Halprin (b.1920).

The exhibition titled *Minotaur* is the first in a series of upcoming shows in which two artists choose one another and discuss key aspects of their individual research. For this season we invited artists from different generations who are intimately connected by a teacher-student relationship. Daria Martin has asked Anna Halprin to collaborate on her 9 minute, 16mm film *Minotaur* as she considers Halprin an inspirational reference point in postmodern dance. Halprin is a seminal figure in 20th century choreography, whose career spans more than seven decades. Often credited as inventing postmodern dance, in the 1960's she taught Yvonne Rainer, Trisha Brown, Simone Forti, Robert Morris and others who later went on to form the Judson Church Group in New York. In the later half of her career, she became a leading figure in the field of dance as a healing art.

Halprin has created an original choreography for the dancers in Daria Martin's *Minotaur* that draws inspiration from Rodin's sculptures themed on Greek mythology.

Daria Martin's direction creates a sense of imaginary travel, guiding the spectator from photographs to sculptures to dance, in which objects, bodies, and the ephemerality of the film medium are presented as equivalent. Contrary to what we see in Rodin's sculpture, the feminine is not in Martin's and Halprin's rendering treated as victim. The female protagonist becomes a winner over the ancient and menacing mythical creature, who has been challenged to a dance match. *Minotaur* will be projected along with Martin's first film, *In the Palace* (2000), which presaged her interest in dance, and its presentation as equivalent to sculpture. Staging a series of tableaux vivants within a scaled up version of Giacometti's *The Palace at 4am* (1932), a group of dancers evoke iconic moments from within 20th dance history, although they remain still, only the camera moving round them.

Daria Martin's films will be accompanied by the first Italian exhibition of Anna Halprin's personal archive of photos, drawings and sketches for choreographies. The traces of Halprin's contribution to the 1963 Venice Biennale, is especially worthy of note, as are images documenting *Circle The Earth*, her project from the 1980's and 90's in which she worked with sufferers of HIV/AIDS.

Daria Martin's and Anna Halprin's work can also be seen in *Danser Sa View* at the Centre Pompidou, Paris, through 12 April, 2012, in an exhibition that unites over 300 artists through an investigation between the links between 'fine art' and dance.

Daria Martin has exhibited in solo shows in several important institutions such as the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, The New Museum New York and MCA Chicago in 2010; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam in 2006, Kunsthalle Zürich and the Kunstverein in Hamburg in 2005. Her work has been presented in numerous international art events such as Blockbuster exhibition curated by Jens Hoffmann at the Museum of Contemporary Art of Monterey; a nude Man's city Museum of Modern Art Sao Paulo, Brazil in 2010; *Le Sang d'un Poet sain-nazaire* Biennale, Nantes France in 2009, *Manifesta 7*, 2008, The Tate Triennial, 2006. Daria Martin's films are held in important art collections such as Tate, London; The New Museum, New York; Kadist Foundation, Paris, Ringier Zurich and Arts Council England, London.

Anna Halprin is the creator of 150 original theater pieces. She has documented her activity in videos and photography and she has written three published books. She is the recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts; the Guggenheim the American Dance Guild, and many others. *Returning Home* is amongst her most recent videos. In 2006 Mac Lyon dedicated her a retrospective exhibition. In 2009 *Beath Made Visible*, Halprins biopic documentary was presented in several cities around the world.

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