



# VIRES | WORKS

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WORK EMERGING FROM THE PERFORMANCE CYCLE

“Just as we move our mental organ as we please and translate its movements into language and willful acts, we should learn to move the internal organs of our body and the body itself as a whole. Only in this way would man become truly independent from nature and only so would he be able to force the senses to “produce” for him the shape of his desires, and he could, in the strict sense of the term, live in his world. The fate that has burdened man up to now is merely the laziness of his spirit”

THE MAN WITHOUT CONTENT.  
GIORGIO AGAM BEN

WORK EMERGING FROM THE PERFORMANCE CYCLE **VIRES**

EXHIBITED AT:

MADRE MUSEUM

(NAPLES-ITALY),

TEATRO ANATOMICO

(BOLOGNA-ITALY),

MIAMI ART MUSEUM

(MIAMI-USA),

BROT KUNSTHALLE-HILGER CONTEMPORARY

(VIENNA-AUSTRIA)

THE MARINA ABRAMOVIC STUDIO AT LOCATION ONE

(NEW YORK-USA)

2010

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## VIRES

LATIN WORD SIGNIFYING:

VIS : (SING.) VIOLENCE / A LARGE NUMBER, QUANTITY, A FORCE / NATURE

VIS VIRES (PL.) : FORCE, POWER, STRENGTH, MIGHT, INFLUENCE.

Political, social and economical powers are forces molding society since the origins of western civilization until today. History has made each of these forces evolve into more complex and sometimes subtle structures from where institutions, individuals and/or complete societies tend to dominate others as a form of control. Within domination and control a great amount of new articulations arise, as the body that is being controlled has to translate the latest power structure imposed in order to understand and function within the new regime. VIRES is then, a cycle of three performances analyzing diverse forms of power in order to give back that same power, to the audience in affiliation with the performance. Each of the exercises pretends to address the multiple structures of power that emerge everytime a body is interacting with another body (in this case the social body understood as the audience). It is also of great importance to understand the performer's body as a structure of power by itself as it serves as a promoter of the action and it pre-disposes the initial articulation and interaction with its audience; in return, each performance, leaves some sort of open spaces from where the audience becomes the actual structure of absolute power.

## PIECES COMPOSIG VIRES

### EXCERSISE#1

ON THE POWER OF SYMBOLS, IMAGES AND NARRATIVE

DURATION: ONE DAY.

ELEMENTS IN THE COMPOSITION:

WOLF: SYMBOL OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION

(ORIGINS OF ROME)/SACRED ANIMAL FOR NATIVE AMERICANS

HARNESS: ELEMENT USED TO RESTRAIN AND CONTROL

### Description:

A black leather harness attaches the performer to a wheeled cart where the wolf is mounted. The body will carry the wolf around the city, especially through spaces where institutions of power are present.

This piece as a public performance, staged within the normal flow of the city, pretends to create a dialog with the people close the action; a dialog that will emerge from the different points of view in relationship to the symbol of the wolf, its attachment to the body and as a whole, representing the dominant presence and influence of history and memory upon the body in relationship within the present times. This dialog will be recorded with microphones that are hidden in the harness, becoming the documentation of the performance, actually showing the importance of the audience when it comes to understand an image and it's impact on the viewer giving as result a complete different account of the events in relationship with the performance and its original conceptual background (Multiplicity and difference in repetition).



ON THE POWER OF SYMBOLS, IMAGES AND NARRATIVE  
**HEAD WITH BLINDERS**

2010

Black & White photograph on Rice paper

Edition of 2 +1AP

81 cm x 152 cm each

Galerie | **Anita Beckers** | Frankfurt



ON THE POWER OF SYMBOLS, IMAGES AND NARRATIVE  
**HEAD WITH BLINDERS**

2010

Black & White photograph on Rice paper with embossed seal

Edition of 10 +1AP

48 cm x 33 cm each

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ON THE POWER OF SYMBOLS, IMAGES AND NARRATIVE  
**HEAD LOOKING AT GOD**

2010

Photograph Black & White picture on Rice paper

Edition of 2 +1AP

81 cm x 152 cm each

Galerie | **Anita Beckers** | Frankfurt





ON THE POWER OF SYMBOLS, IMAGES AND NARRATIVE  
**HEAD AND WOLF**

2010

Color photograph

Edition of 6 +2AP

64 cm x 94 cm each

Galerie | **Anita Beckers** | Frankfurt





ON THE POWER OF SYMBOLS, IMAGES AND NARRATIVE  
**HEAD AND WOLF**

2010

Color photograph on rice paper with embossed seal

Edition of 18 +2AP

64 cm x 64 cm

Galerie | **Anita Beckers** | Frankfurt

## PIECES COMPOSIG VIRES

### EXERCISE #2

#### ON FATE, DESTINY AND CHOICE

DURATION: ONE DAY

ELEMENTS IN THE COMPOSITION:

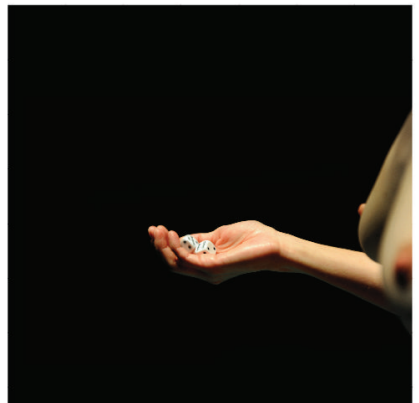
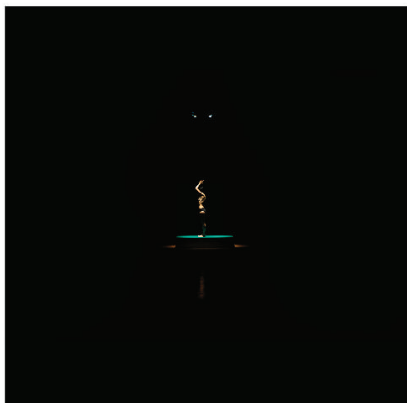
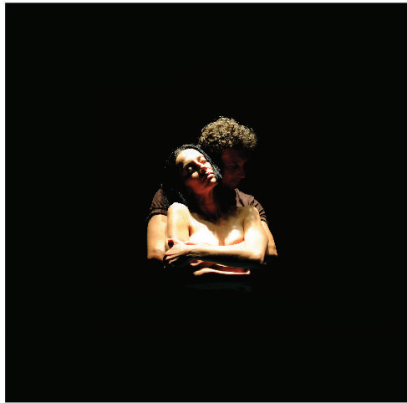
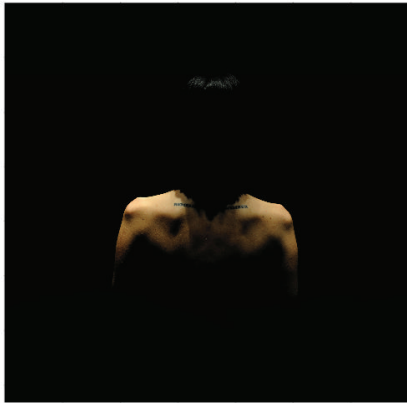
GREEN FELT COVERED PLATFORM: SPACE FOR GAMING.

DICE: SYMBOLS OF LUCK

#### Description:

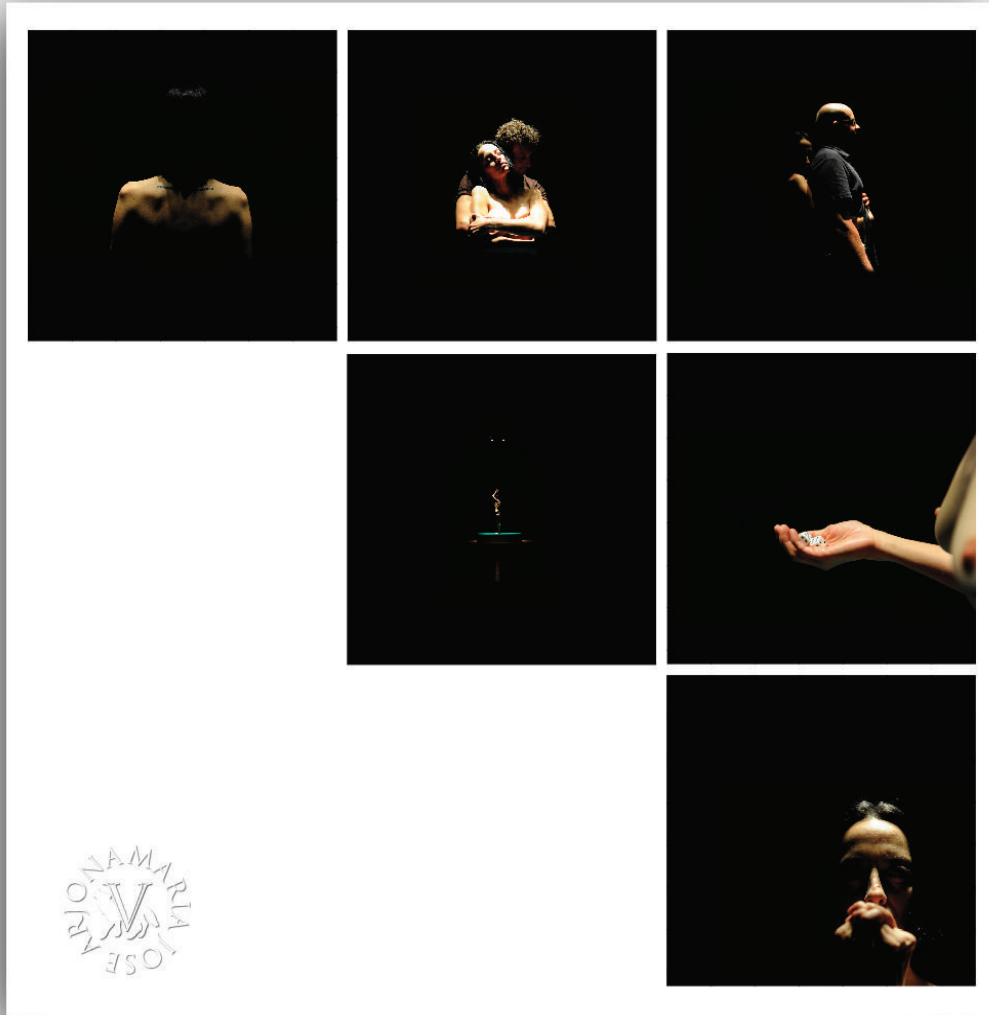
The performer is standing on the green platform and a pair of dice is in front of her. The viewer is instructed to come into the platform, through the dice and perform an action/do something physical to the performer the number of times dictated by the dice.

Luck just dictates the number of times the action should be performed but it is again, in the hands of the audience, which action (positive or negative) should be inflicted on the performer, affecting her body as well as the performance itself.



ON FATE, DESTINY AND CHOICE  
2010  
Six color photographs  
Edition of 6 +2AP  
30 cm x 30 cm each

Galerie | **Anita Beckers** | Frankfurt



ON FATE, DESTINY AND CHOICE  
 2010  
 Color photograph on rice paper with embossed seal  
 Edition of 18 +2AP  
 64 cm x 64 cm

Galerie | **Anita Beckers** | Frankfurt

## PIECES COMPOSIG VIRES

### EXERCISE#3

#### ON KNOWLEDGE AND LIBERATION

DURATION: 4 HOURS

ELEMENTS IN THE COMPOSITION:

LEATHER GARMENT - 30 LOCKS - 40 KEYS

#### Description:

The performer is wearing a restrain suit that is attached to her body by 30 leather straps. A lock closes each strap and each lock indicates the location of major and minor charkas in the performers body. Underneath the lock a metallic, rounded spike will create through time a mark that will allow the public to see, by the time the suit is completely removed, the effect of the suit on the performer's body at the same time allowing the audience to understand that participation is one of the forces behind every act of freedom.

#### INSTRUCTIONS

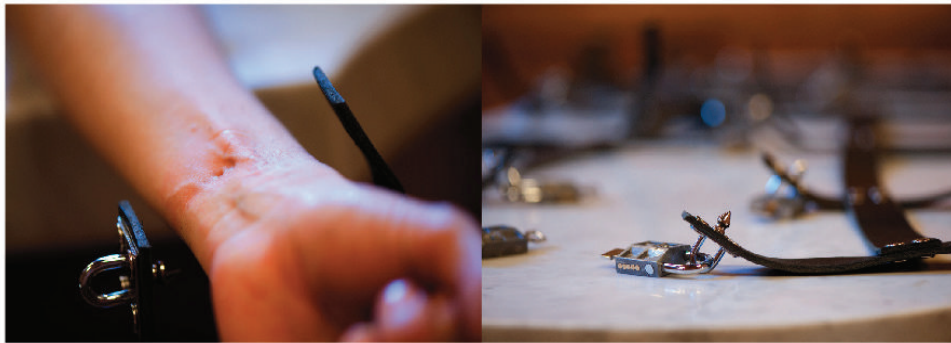
The performer is wearing a suit that needs to be taken off by unlocking 30 locks. If you want to participate you will take a key and try to open one of the locks. If you open the lock, untie the leather strap around the performers body and keep the key.

The key is an original piece and it is yours.

You can invite a friend of the audience to participate with you.

Be patient and remain calm.





## ON KNOWLEDGE AND LIBERATION

2010

Two color photographs on rice paper with embossed seal

Edition of 6 +2AP

50 cm x 90 cm each

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## PIECES COMPOSIG VIRES

### EXERCISE#4

ON FORCE, DESIRE AND OBJECTS OF DESIRE

DURATION: ONE DAY

ELEMENTS IN THE COMPOSITION:

HARNESS: SAME USED IN EXERCISE ONE

DIAMOND: MOST PRECIOUS AND VALUED ROCK IN THE MARKET/SYMBOL OF PURITY AND STRENGTH.

#### Description:

The performer is restrained with the harness and remains naked in the space in front of a podium where a box containing the diamond is installed. An assistant comes to the space, opens the box and takes the diamond out of it. He will put the diamond inside the performer's mouth.

The audience is instructed to get the diamond out of the performer's mouth. If a member of the audience takes the diamond outside of the performer's mouth he/she can keep the diamond.



ON FORCE, DESIRE AND OBJECTS OF DESIRE

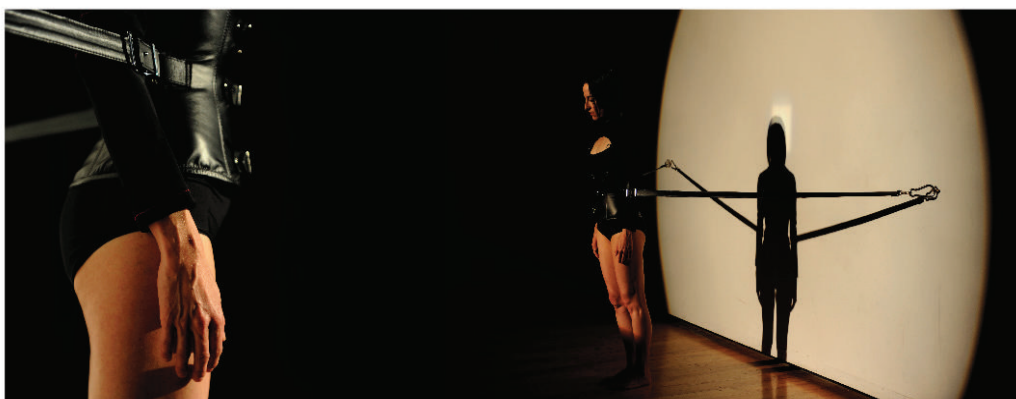
2010

Color photograph

Edition of 6 +2AP

36 cm x 94 cm

Galerie | **Anita Beckers** | Frankfurt



ON FORCE, DESIRE AND OBJECTS OF DESIRE

2010

Color photograph on rice paper with embossed seal

Edition of 18 +2AP

64 cm x 64 cm

Galerie | **Anita Beckers** | Frankfurt

PIECES COMPOSIG VIRES

OTHERS  
VIRES CYCLE

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## VIRES-THREE HEADED ANIMAL

2010

Video of the three heads composing VIRES

One channel video with surround sound

Edition of 5 + 1AP

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## VIRES SET

- (1) ON FATE, DESTINY AND CHOICE
- (2) ON FORCE, DESIRE AND OBJECTS OF DESIRE
- (3) ON THE POWER OF SYMBOLS, IMAGES AND NARRATIVE

2010  
 3 Color photographs on rice paper with embossed seal  
 64 cm x 64 cm

Galerie | **Anita Beckers** | Frankfurt