



UNTIE
IGOR JOSIFOV



UNTIE
IGOR JOSIFOV

*Cover: 2016 - Untie Installation, Dada Here and Now, San Francisco International Arts Festival,
Fort Mason, San Francisco, California.
Custom designer: Milena Atanasova*





Untie is a culmination of my evolution as an artist.

In *Untie*, I am suspended in mid-air; helpless and unable to break free. My body is suspended for display and therefore surrendered to viewers. This metaphor portrays the artist as a political body that is captive to materialism and confined by structured spaces.

The installation is constructed of a fabric specially created using my fire reflection technique. I painted the fabric while meditating on the current state of the world. During the process, I cast ashes from the past. Memories that were once intangible are given form as they are reconstructed through mark-making.

Fire-reflection is the most current process of my journey of self-discovery and liberation through projects like *Manumission*, *Taming Fire*, *Burning Words*, *Wit-ness* and *2-dimensional*.

Igor Josifov

Untie was inspired and created for the San Francisco International Arts Festival 2016, *Dada Here and Now*, curated by Hanna Regev and Matt McKinley; Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA.





The theme of freedom runs deep in *Untie* and through Igor Josifov's entire opus. *Untie* poses an existential question of freedom hanging in the balance. For the artist, the preservation of freedom is an absolute necessity. It is an irrefutable, fundamental human right. Freedom is the foundation of any healthy society or nation.

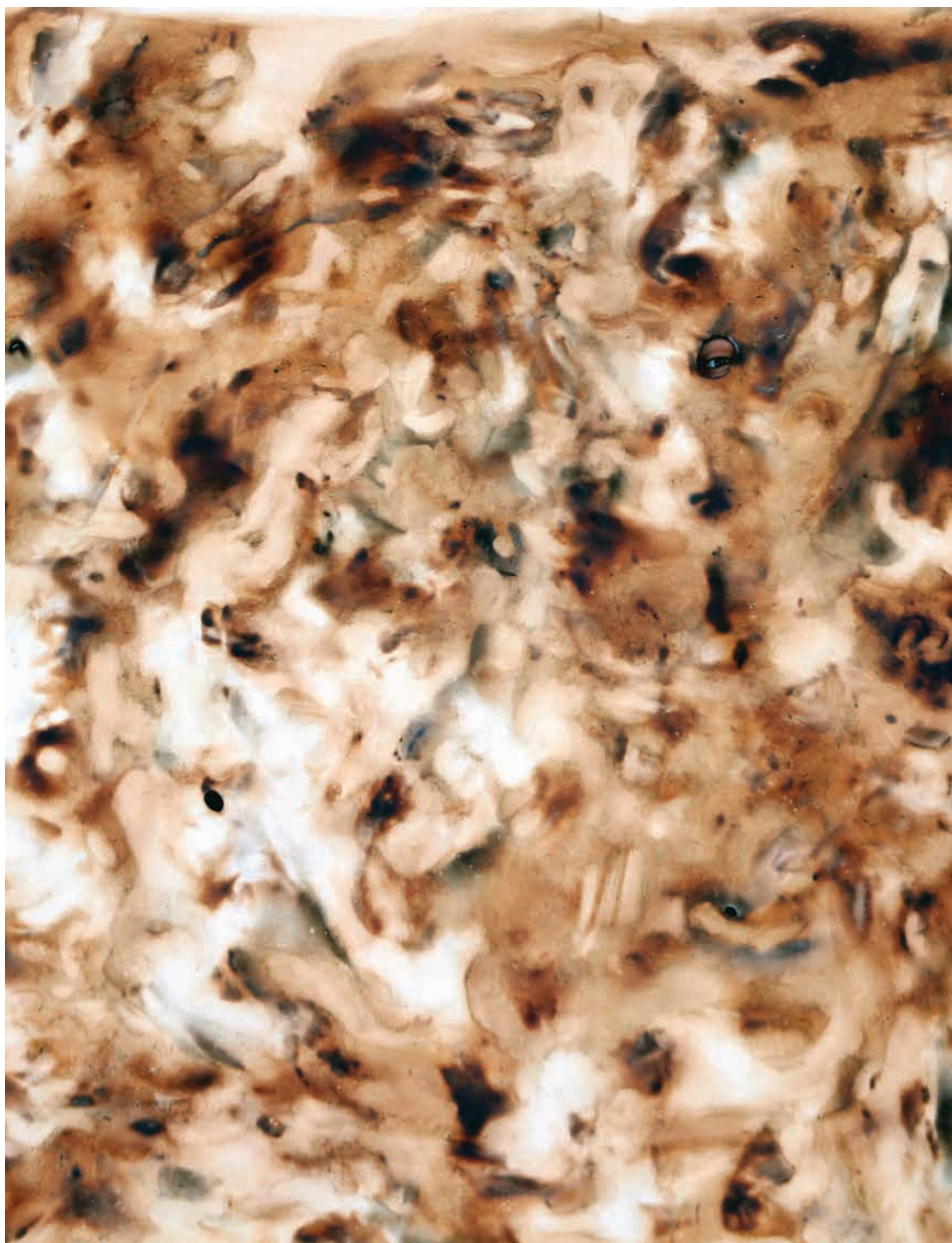
In *Untie* the artist evokes many struggles and presents a continuous reference line from Dada's inception to the centennial celebration of *Dada Here and Now*, where we honor the early Dadaist pioneers who rebelled against oppressive intellectual rigidity in both art and everyday society. *Untie* is a powerful symbol of a core principle that is shared by artists and citizens who occupy the global stage.

Hanna Regev, Contemporary Art Curator and Author
Dada Here and Now, San Francisco International Arts Festival 2016









On November 20, 2015, Josifov accompanied a filmmaker to the Macedonian-Greek border for a collaborative project. That day, thousands of refugees were being released after a long sequestration between countries. As Josifov witnessed this massive influx of people, he experienced the horrors and pains of displacement. That night *Continuum* was born. Josifov drew chaotic faces, merging into a storm of violence and anguish. Many of these faces were captured over his years visiting old world countries, starting with his first visit to Syria in 2007.

2015 - *Continuum* (Detail), Fire reflection on linen, 150x150cm (60x60in)



2014 - "Electric," Fire reflection on paper, 91x76cm (36x31in)



2014 Installation - Collecting memories, Yellowstone Art Museum, Billings, Montana



Paper burns, ashes crumble, matter convulses under the lash of fire...

Macedonian artist Igor Josifov has chosen to create by burning. His self-portrait offers a silhouette with seared edges. The technique is surprisingly violent and accurate. Here the immolation does not destroy but sculpts and traces delicate outlines with paper's noble form.

Perhaps a projection of the passions that inflame us and so shape our personalities? The work involves a spectacular and terrifying performance, traversing that moment of uncertainty that could slide into total destruction. All that remain are sketches, patterns that catch the eye and surprise – which we distinguish from far away, in a counterintuitive movement backward – captivating us and piquing our curiosity.

Dauphine De Cambre - Art Critic, *The ARTchemists*

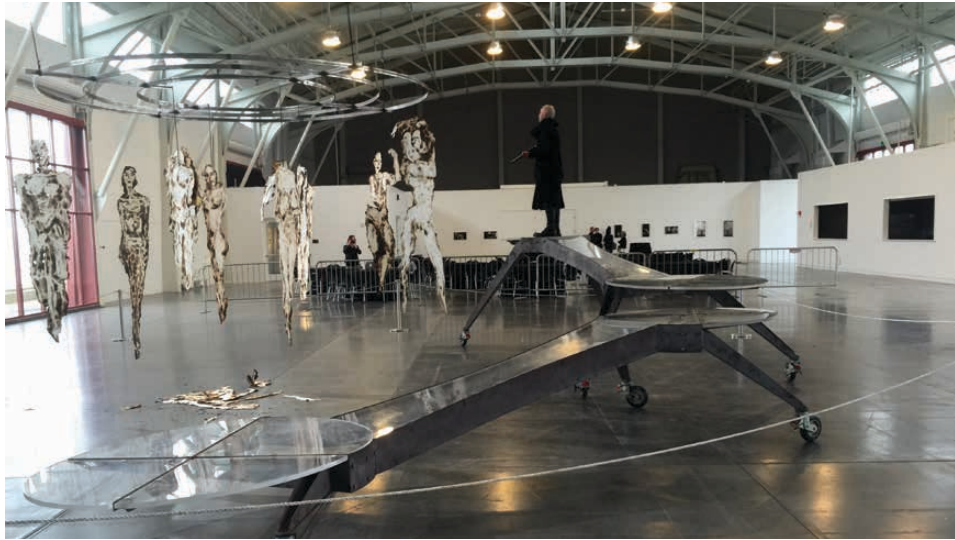


Fall 2014 - *Taming Fire*, Film Stills



Witness - Film Stills





Wit-ness is a multi-media project grounded in performance art. It features film, photography and burned paper works. Developed from the theme of surveillance, *Wit-ness* includes an installation that represents the violent confrontation between identity and vulnerability, tied together by a narrative that addresses the concept of surveying and being surveyed.



Above: 2015 - *Wit-ness*, performance, Fort Mason, California
Below: Fall 2014 - *Burning Words*, Film Still

*Feb-March 2012 - 2-Dimensional
Le Quartz dans le cadre du Festival DañsFabrik, Brest, France*





Public reaction is the active component of Untie, as it was with my performance series 2-dimensional (2009-2014). Each version of 2-dimensional included site-specific installations and a variety of public reactions. It became a cross-cultural study performed in eight international locations.

In my performances, public responses reveal the predictability of social restraints. I seek to convey how individual control can remain unconstrained by rigid habits and traditions. Even though I am encased and preserved in a static form I am communicating a sense of liberation from conformity. I perform the silent act of becoming free.

Igor Josifov

March 2014 - 2-Dimensional, Night of Performances, Onassis Cultural Centre, Athens, Greece



Josifov makes use of the mask—presenting it as the oldest form of alienation—as the basis for a modern representation of Man, a creature that has lost all immediacy.

Josifov's performance offers elements of transformation and liberation that may get through to the individual's consciousness, but it gives no answers nor does it take definite points of view.

Excerpt from the Manumission essay by Vladimir Veličkovski, Ph.D

*Left: 2007 - Manumission, Film Stills
Next page: 2015 - River of Memories | Waterfall*



Solo Exhibitions

- 2016 - *Untie*, Dada Here & Now, SFIAF, Fort Mason, San Francisco, USA
- 2015 - *Taming Fire*, Herbst Pavilion, San Francisco, USA
Burning Words | Films, Pacific Felt Factory, San Francisco, USA
Taming Fire | Films, Sanchez Art Center, Pacifica, USA
Taming Fire | Selected Works and Films, HNYPT, Los Angeles, USA
Wit-ness, San Francisco International Arts Festival, Fort Mason, San Francisco, USA
Collecting Memories | Wit-ness, Diplomatic Art 2015 – Bastionul Theresia, Timisoara, Romania
Taming Fire | CityWideArtists, Minneapolis, USA
- 2014 - *Art Paris*, Grand Palais, Paris, France
2-Dimensional, Onassis Cultural Centre, Athens, Greece
Taming Fire, Northcutt Steele Gallery, Billings, USA
- 2013 - *Re-collecting Memories*, The Performance Art Institute, San Francisco, USA
Purification, Galerie E.G.P, London, UK
- 2012 - *Selected works 2007-2012*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Skopje, Macedonia
Still Life, Galerie E.G.P, Paris, France
2-Dimensional, Abrons Art Center, New York, USA
2-Dimensional, Le Quartz dans le cadre du Festival DañsFabrik, Brest, France
2-Dimensional, Museum of Contemporary Arts, Skopje, Macedonia
- 2011 - *Igor Josifov*, Galerie E.G.P, Paris, France
2-Dimensional, Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah, UAE
- 2010 - *Manumission*, National Museum of Art, Cetinje, Montenegro
Igor Josifov – selected projects, MAI, San Francisco, USA
2-Dimensional, Chic Art Fair, Galerie E.G.P, Paris, France
2-Dimensional, MAI West, San Francisco, USA
- 2009 - *Being you, uses me*, Alphonse Berber Gallery, Berkeley, USA
2-Dimensional | Opening of the Modern Wing at Art Institute, Chicago, USA
Past Present Permanent | Mental Prison, Tunnel Space, New York City, USA
Art Interrupted, Space Gallery, San Francisco, USA
- 2008 - *Face It*, Toomey Tourell Fine Art, San Francisco, USA
- 2007 - *Art In Search Of The 'I'*, Translating Space, San Francisco, USA

Group Exhibitions

- 2015 - *Diplomatic Art 2015* – Bastionul Theresia, Timisoara, Romania
Bearing Witness: Surveillance in the Drone Age - SFIAF, Fort Mason, San Francisco, USA
Living with endangered Languages, Root Division, San Francisco, USA
OSTEN – 42. Mezinárodní bienále kresby - Galerie kritiků, Prague, Czech Republic
- 2014 - *100 Performances for The Hole* – SomArts, San Francisco, USA
- 2013 - *Permutation*, Galerie E.G.P, London, UK
Bicycle Will..., Galerie E.G.P, Paris, France
Permutation, Galerie E.G.P, Paris, France
- 2012 - *Igor Josifov*, Scope Art Fair, New York, USA
Present Memories Body Still, Low Lives 4, Live Global Web Stream Installation
- 2011 - *Aesthetics of disappearance*, Al Qasba, Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah, UAE
Present Memories, Perforation Festival NYC, New York, USA
WOR(L)DS, Galerie E.G.P, Paris, France
Pogledi, Blok Gallery in Belgrade, Serbia | Organized by Museum of Contemporary Art, Skopje, Macedonia
Elementaires, Galerie E.G.P, Paris, France
IXth Biennale of Young Artists, Museum of Contemporary Art, Skopje, Macedonia
- 2010 - *Marina Abramović: The Artist Is Present*, MoMA, New York, USA
Works that disturb the moonlight, Alphonse Berber Gallery, Berkeley, USA
This House is empty, The Hunted House of Light, New York, USA
Degeneration – regeneration, Marina Abramović Institute, San Francisco, USA
Lost bodies, Mala Stanica, National Gallery of Arts, Skopje, Macedonia
Pour l'Amour de Goya, Galerie E.G.P, Paris, France
Present Memories, Perforacije at Museum of Contemporary Art, Zagreb, Croatia
Mise en Scène, Galerie E.G.P, Paris, France
- 2009 - *2-Dimensional*, the Art Institute, Chicago, USA
A Touch of Violence, National Gallery of Arts, Tirana, Albania

Group Exhibitions *continued*

- 2008 - *Missing Performance*, Bridge Art Fair, Miami, USA
Manumission, Bridge Art Fair, Berlin, Germany
Reflection on originality, The Watermill Center, New York, USA
Ten, Toomey Tourell Fine Art, San Francisco, USA
Purification Process, the Bridge Art Fair, New York City, USA
7th Annual Art Auction | Visual Aid and Academy of Friends, San Francisco, USA
- 2004 - Museum of Skopje, Skopje, Macedonia
- 2000 - The International Museum Children's Art, Oslo, Norway

Awards

- 2015 - Young Artist of the Year - Osten's Artists of the Year, Skopje, Macedonia
Apollonia Award - Osten Biennial of Awarded Artists, Skopje, Macedonia
Golden Osten Award - Osten Biennial of Awarded Artists, Skopje, Macedonia
- 2014 - First Award for Original Work on Paper - Osten Biennial of Drawing, Skopje, Macedonia
- 2011 - 1st Prize | IXth Biennale for Young Artists - NI Museum of Contemporary Art, Skopje, Macedonia
- 2005 - Full Tuition Portfolio Grant | Academy of Art University Portfolio Grant Program, San Francisco, CA
- 2003 - 1st Prize | International Art Exhibition 13 Noemvri, Skopje, Macedonia
- 2000 - Award for Single Creation "Vision of the future" at the 14th International Exhibition
The Small Montmartre of Bitola, Bitola, Macedonia
1st Prize for Successful Creation, Cultural Center, 'Ilindenski Denovi', Bitola, Macedonia
- 99-03 - Grant from the Macedonian Ministry of Culture for the School for Applied Arts
'Lazar Licenoski', Skopje, Macedonia
- 1998 - Special Diploma for "Society seen through the eyes of children" at The International Museum of Art Oslo, Norway - In cooperation with the Norwegian Council for Cultural Affairs.
- 1995 - Best Exhibition Award, City of Skopje International Art Exhibition, 13 Noemvri, Skopje, Macedonia

Residencies

- 2015 - Golden Osten | Biennial of Awarded Artists, Gevgelija, Macedonia
InSpace Curatorial | Artist in Residence, San Francisco, CA
Spring of 2015, *Wit-ness* SFIAF Performance, San Francisco, CA
Winter 2015, *Wit-ness* Film Production, Miles City, MT
- 2014 - *Igor Josifov*, Yellowstone Art Museum, Billings, USA
- 2013 - *Re-collecting Memories*, The Performance Art Institute, San Francisco, USA
- 2009 - *Lost Bodies* | Galichnik Art Colony, Galichnik, Macedonia
- 2008 - *Reflection On Originality*, The Watermill Center, New York, USA
Manumission, performance, The Watermill Center, New York, USA
Emit, performance, The Watermill Center, New York, USA
Flooded, performance, The Watermill Center, New York, USA
Art Copy/Copy Art, lecture and exhibition, The Watermill Center, New York, USA

Bibliography

- 2015 - *Wit-ness*, text by Hanna Regev, Latifa Medjdoub, Andrew Wood, Igor Josifov
Published by Al'myra Communications, San Francisco, CA
- 2014 - *Taming Fire*, essay by Hanna Regev, published by Al'Myra Communications
- 2012 - *Igor Josifov - Selected Works 2007-2012*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Skopje, Macedonia
- 2011 - *Al Ghaib – Aesthetics of disappearance*, Gaia Serena Simionati, Published by Silvana Editoriale
- 2010 - *Igor Josifov*, published by Galerie E.G.P, Paris, France
The Artist is Present | Marina Abramovic, essays by Klaus Biesenbach, Arthur C. Danto, Chrissie Iles, Nancy Spector, and Jovana Stokic. Published by Museum of Modern Art, NYC
- 2009 - *Manumission*, text by Igor Josifov, dedicated to Marina Abramović,
Published by Toomey Tourell, June, San Francisco, CA



Al'Myra Communications is an organization committed to interdisciplinary storytelling through socially responsible means. Working with diverse professionals in an array of artistic fields, *Al'Myra Communications* brings awareness to topical thoughts and events through such mediums as dance, photography, film, architecture, and the visual arts. More information on *Al'Myra* and the projects it supports can be found at:
almyracommunications.com

Questions: Contact Ryan Noble
ryan.noble@almyracommunications.com • +1415.2051430