

ADELINA POPNEDELEVA

Born 1956

About the artist:

Adelina Popnedeleva lives and works in Sofia where she graduated from the National Academy of Art in 1988 and holds a PhD in Visual Arts and Theory of Art. Today she is an Associate Professor in the department of Textile.

Adelina Popnedeleva is an artist, performer, filmmaker and also curator. She is one of the founders of the women artists group "8 of March" and has been among the most active contemporary artists in Bulgaria since the 1990s. She is best known for her performance Nirvana, in which she washed men's shirts and a dress in muddy water.

Adelina Popnedeleva took part in international exhibitions like "Synergy", European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium, Second triennial of fiber art, Hangzhou, China; "Save the Dreams. Contemporary Artists from Bulgaria", Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Venice; The summer Video Portrait Symposium, Bangor University, UK; Art for change, SGHG, Sofia; Why Duchamp?, Museum for contemporary art, Sofia Arsenal; Re-production, Museum for contemporary art, Sofia Arsenal; Shortlist 2008, Gaudenz B. Ruf award for New Bulgarian Art; "Portrait in the moving image", Vandalorum and Jonchoping Lans Museum, Sweden; Aktuelle scene Bulgarien, Ludwig Museum, Koblenz; festival BBI Fribourg, Switzerland; Coffee with Sugar, Seoul; Documenta, Regensburg, Germany; Haus Wittgenstein, Vienna, Austria; Trieste Contemporanea, Focus Bulgaria, Trieste, Italy; Visual Immortality, Visarte Gallery, Basel, Switzerland; Women of the World, a global Collection of Art, White Columns, NY, USA; Bulgarian and American Women Artists Collaborate, Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts, New York, USA; Solitary Pursuits, Elisabeth Foundation for the Arts, New York, USA.

She has been awarded an honorary diploma for documentary film, XVIII festival "Golden rhyton", Bulgaria 2010 and the Gaudenz B. Ruf award for New Bulgarian Art, advanced artists 2008.

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1. *Nirvana*, 1998

video documentation of a performance, solidified object, dress, mud, C200 glue

Edition: dress: Unique; video: 3+1 AP

Ownership history: The Artist



ADELINA POPNEDELEVA, *Nirvana*, 1998**About the work:**

The work is the documentation and the object result of a performance that the artist made repeatedly in different art institutions in Europe. During the performance the artist is wearing a white dress, takes a pure white shirt and washes it in a bathtub full of mud. The shirts are then stretched and left to dry. The artifacts resulting from the performance are a video documentation of the performance in three different locations and the dress worn by the author during the performance. The performance has often been interpreted as an act of defiance against the stereotype of the female role in intersex relationships, according to which the woman is destined to take care of her husband's domestic needs. Although the artist does not fully reject such an interpretation on the part of the viewers, the original motivation for Adelina Popnedeleva's performance is the purity of the idea and its "contamination" by the views and influences of others.

Nirvana is among the most emblematic works in Bulgarian art in the 1990s.

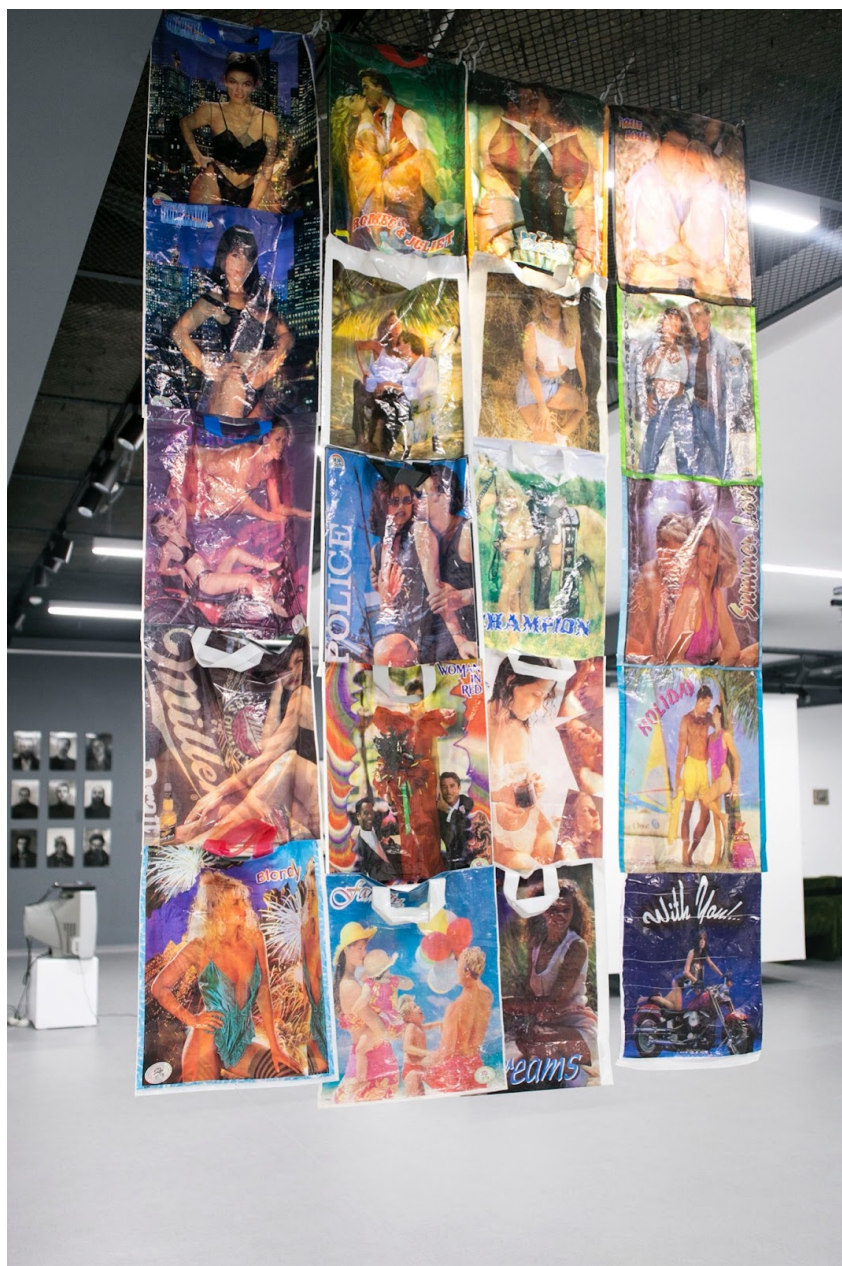
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2. Ready Made, 1997

50 polyethylene bags, sizes varying

Edition: Unique

Ownership history: The Artist



ADELINA POPNEDELEVA, *Ready Made*, 1997



About the work:

The work is a collection of 50 plastic bags offered by Bulgarian retailers in the 1990s. They are a product of a cultural and commercial zone, in the beginning of a free market economy in Bulgaria, where neither the trade nor the images were subjected to much regulations. The bags stand out for their colorful and intriguing images taken from soap operas, lifestyle magazines or lingerie catalogs. Their origin is very often garage production, mostly from Turkey, where copyright law was not a factor in the choice of decoration. The pictures are chosen to meet the taste of the general consumer and one is impressed by the open exposure of women. In addition to the peculiarities of the Balkan economy in the 1990s, Adelina Popnedeleva's work shows the female image being turned into a vulgar product for everyday use.