



ORDEN POUR LE MÉRITE
FÜR WISSENSCHAFTEN UND KÜNSTE

Marinat ABRAMOVIĆ

Performance and conceptual artist

Born on 30 November 1946 in Belgrad, Jugoslawien

Since the beginning of her career in Belgrade during the early 1970s, Marina Abramovic has pioneered performance as a visual art form. She created some of the most important early works in this practice, including *Rhythm 0* (1974), in which she offered herself as an object of experimentation for the audience, as well as *Rhythm 5* (1974), where she lay in the centre of a burning five-point star to the point of losing consciousness. These performances married concept with physicality, endurance with empathy, complicity with loss of control, passivity with danger. They pushed the boundaries of self-discovery, both of herself and her audience. They also marked her first engagements with time, stillness, energy, pain, and the resulting heightened consciousness generated by long durational performance.

In 2012, she founded the Marina Abramovic Institute (MAI), a non-profit foundation for performance art, that focuses on performance, long durational works, and the use of the Abramovic. MAI is a platform for immaterial and long durational work to create new possibilities for collaboration among thinkers of all fields.

Abramovic was one of the first performance artists to become formally accepted by the institutional museum world with major solo shows taking place throughout Europe and the US over a period of more than 25 years. In 2024, Marina opened her first solo exhibition in China. 'Transforming Energy' at the Museum of Modern Art, Shanghai. In 2023, Abramovic was the first female artist to host a major solo exhibition in the Main Galleries of the Royal Academy of Arts in London. This show will tour throughout Europe and Asia through 2026. Her first European retrospective 'The Cleaner' was presented at Moderna Museet in Stockholm, Sweden in 2017, followed by presentations at the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art in Copenhagen, Denmark, Henie Onstad, Sandvika, Norway (2017), Bundeskunsthalle, Bonn, Germany (2018), Centre of Contemporary Art, Torun (2019), and concluding at the Museum of Contemporary Art Belgrade, Serbia (2019). In 2010, Abramovic had her first major U.S. retrospective and simultaneously performed for over 700 hours in 'The Artist is Present' at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. In September 2023 she opened her solo exhibition at the Royal Academy, and became the first female artist in the institution's 250 year history to occupy the entire gallery space with her work. This show toured to several venues in Europe through 2026. In 1997, Abramovic was awarded the Golden Lion Award for Best Artist for her performance *Balkan Baroque* at the Venice Biennale. In 2006, Abramovic received the U.S. Art Critics Association Award for Best Exhibition of Time Based Art for her performance *Seven Easy Pieces* at the Guggenheim in New York City. In 2008, Abramovic received the Austrian Decoration of Honor for Science and Art in Vienna. In 2011, she was awarded a Honorary Royal Academician status by The Royal Academy in London. In 2013, Abramovic was awarded the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres Officer for her work in *Bolero*, Paris and in 2022, she was promoted to Ordre des Arts et des Lettres Commander. In 2014, Abramovic was named one of The 100 Most Influential People by TIME Magazine. In

2021, Abramovic was awarded the Princess de Asturias Award for the Arts, in Spain and the Golden Medal for Merits from the Republic of Serbia. In 2023 she was awarded the Sonning Prize from the University of Copenhagen, and officially received the award in 2024. In 2024, she was awarded an honorary degree from the Albertina Academy in Turin and the Luxembourg Peace Prize from the World Peace Forum. In October 2025 she was awarded the Praemium Imperiale for Sculpture by the Japan Art Association (2025).

Admission to the Order 2026



Marina Abramović