

**RENEGADES**

**25 Years of Performance Art at Exit Art: A Selection From The Archives**

**by Papo Colo, 2007**

**New York City**

The art of performing is a purposeful action done in public or private. It is recorded, written or orally explained. Its function is beyond drama, because it doesn't represent, interpret, or imitate life. It belongs to another circumstance of reality, the realism of the artist's mind. This artistic expression is an autonomous entity which has its own rules – that there are no rules. That's why performance art is the medium in the cultural world that is closest to anarchism. At the same time it is also close to democracy because anyone can practice it. Its only skill is its will of execution and the intelligence of its intention.

This balance of meanings is what informs this misunderstood medium, between the profound and the ridiculous, the refined and the polluted, the humble and the arrogant. It seems that this expression has the power of doubt, the ambivalence of gravity and the context of the unexpected.

Everyone is performing, each person has their own role, but artists by design use performance art as a way to make a point.

The source of culture is performance – the artist practicing their particular language. It is the action of any art discipline, the initiative of making things happen, the force that provokes setting a beginning into motion.

For 25 years the stories in this medium are part of our history. This exhibition authenticates our innovation in this field.

**Text for the exhibition at Exit Art NY**

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