

OVERGADEN.

Press release August 2013

Oreet Ashery: Party for Freedom

7 September - 27 October 2013

Opening: Friday 6 September 2013, 5-8pm

Many things can be justified in the name of freedom – political swings to the right, the limitlessness of freedom of speech, terrorism legislation and waging war. The internationally renowned artist Oreet Ashery's first solo exhibition in Denmark interrogates some of the highly charged political subjects that are often a thorn in the side of Westerners' tolerant self-image.

At Overgaden Oreet Ashery's total installation *Party for Freedom* mixes politics and punk and performance with trash aesthetics. The exhibition raises questions about the simultaneously unconscious and politically motivated movements and tendencies associated with the Western concept of freedom – from the sexual liberation of the 1970s and the counter cultures of recent decades, to the far right wing's depiction of Islam and immigration as a threat to the nation state.

Upon entering the exhibition, the audience is met by a room enveloped in plastic. Here they are encouraged to actively participate by painting on the transparent, plastic walls. During the course of the exhibition new plastic walls will be added, so the room and thereby the possibility to express themselves becomes gradually smaller and smaller.

The main space of the exhibition is dominated by an overwhelming, sensorily saturated tableau in ten chapters, spanning the assassination of Pim Fortuyn and Theo van Gogh, the seductiveness of political aesthetics, and the interaction between music and news media. Music by the contemporary Finnish composer Timo-Juhani Kyllönen, the punk band Woolf, the experimental artist Chyskyryai, and the hardcore jazz-fusion musician Morgan Quaintance composed specifically for the artwork accompanies the piece.

Party for Freedom is the title of a series of exhibitions and events created by Oreet Ashery, shown and performed in different shapes and forms around the world - sometimes at art institutions, and sometimes as one-off events in someone's living room or classroom. The work changes in each new location. In a Danish context its political themes are especially pertinent, given the debates on the concept of freedom – and especially freedom of speech – that followed in the wake of the Danish Muhammad cartoons crisis.

Oreet Ashery was born in Jerusalem, and lives and works in London. Her work is transmedial, including video, performance, objects and text, and is often site specific with active audience participation. Oreet Ashery has exhibited widely internationally, including at The Liverpool Biennial, Tate Britain and Brooklyn Museum.

Contact: For further information, please contact press officer Anne Riber at ar@overgaden.org, or call +45 3257 7273. High-resolution press pictures may be downloaded from our website at www.overgaden.org, under 'Press' and 'Upcoming'.

Overgaden is Copenhagen's innovative exhibition venue for Danish and international contemporary art. With varying exhibitions and events, including artist talks, lectures, performances and film screenings, Overgaden acts as a platform for the latest developments on the art scene, and as a forum for discussion and debate.

Overgaden.

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Tirsdag-søndag 13-17, torsdag 13-20. Fri entré



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