

re.act feminism

Exhibition—Video Archive—Live Performances—Conference

13 December 2008 – 8 February 2009

Opening: **12 December 2008, 7 pm**

Live Performance: ***TroubleShooting*** by Cornelia Sollfrank



Further Performances at the opening night:

Colette:
i can't tell you what i don't know
Carolee Schneemann:
Disruptive Consciousness

Akademie der Künste, Berlin
Hanseatenweg 10
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Detailliertes Programm:
<http://www.adk.de>



Photos: Tranquillium

In 1961/62 Niki de Saint Phalle's shooting performances caused a stir worldwide. She arranged containers of paint on a wooden base board and covered them with plaster. Shooting at the board with a .22 caliber rifle made the paint spill all over the painting. And it was not only the bleeding paintings (and later assemblages) which bothered the critics and the audience, but the image of the armed woman as well as Saint Phalle's open aggressivity and thrill while shooting: „I had become addicted to shooting, like one becomes addicted to a drug.“ One of many possible interpretations of this work was offered by the artist herself: „I was shooting at myself, society with its injustices, I was shooting at my own violence, and the violences of the time.“

In her action ***TroubleShooting***, the German artist Cornelia Sollfrank takes up this almost forgotten work by Saint Phalle -- who is known today mainly for her *Nanas* -- and repeats it. Sollfrank who has had an interest in firearms for many years, and who has gleaned a vast collection of images of women with guns, used the repetition of this performance as an opportunity to learn how to shoot and to face the question: who or what she would point her gun at?

In the end, Sollfrank's most important concern is to find an answer --with the help of this experiment-- to the question: do contemporary concepts of femininity include openly expressed aggressivity?

TroubleShooting is part of Sollfrank's series: ***re-visiting feminist art***