



Rubbish City
By Yingmei Duan
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Yingmei Duan was quiet more than half of her life. Born in China with a lip adhesion, she was not able to speak until she was twenty-one years old. Regarded as a fool by her surrounding, she chose art as a medium to communicate and reflect her exclusion. Yingmei challenge and use herself as well as her audience in her performances when she builds up tragicomic sceneries where central themes are sexuality and a not fully accepted female body. In *Erotic Body* curated by Marina Abramovic at Venice Biennial Festival 2007, Duan slowly wandered naked around the audience. For five hours, she searched for contact through sobbing and grunting. In, *Sleepwalker*, she moved pensively through a room until she slapped a man in the audience.

In the nine-hour performance repeated over three day at Lilith Performance Studio, Duan constructed the aftermath of a catastrophe. Lost in this wasteland there were five characters: a piano player, a devil, a child, an old crazy man and a naked woman. Descending into a melancholic landscape, the audience followed narrow paths through tons of rubbish in the sound of broken pieces of piano music. Yingmei, the naked woman, moved slowly through the paths with tiny steps seeking contact. Vulnerable yet, she drew the audience into reminisce of a deceased civilization. Everyone started observing each other. Who was looking at whom, and why? Uncertainty, beauty and sadness pervaded this dark wasteland.

Rubbish City will be reproduced at Haus der Kulturen der Welt during *In Transit-* Performing Arts Festival in Berlin, June 2009

Duan was born 1969 in Daqing in the Heilongjiang province in northeast China, and lives and works in Braunschweig, Germany. In 1993, Duan moved to East Village – Art District in Beijing where she studied art, and later worked as a freelance artist. In 1998, she moved to Germany and enrolled at the art school HBK in Braunschweig. She was a member of the Marina Abramovic IPG – Independent Performance Group until 2008. She has performed at exhibitions and festivals at Venice Biennale 2007 (Body & Eros) in Italy, Hualian in Taiwan, Kunstherbst in Berlin, Germany, Kunstverein Kassel in Kassel, Germany, Fruits 2007 Festival in Ljubljana, Slovenia, Non Grata in Estonia and Liste Köln Art Fair 2007 in Köln, Germany.