

press release

THE KITCHEN

video • music • dance • performance

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PERFORMANCE:

Luigi Ontani

March 30, 1983 8:30pm
The Kitchen, 484 Broome St.
\$5.00/\$3.50 members/TDF+\$1
Reservations: 925-3615



La fortezza dell'Arte 1982
Luigi Ontani with Ida Bagus Anom/Bali

For the evening of Wednesday, March 30th only, Italian multi-media artist LUIGI ONTANI returns to The Kitchen in his first performance since last appearing here as "The Astronaut" in November, 1979.

Ontani, known for his tableaux-vivants and performances derived from select mythical, fictional and cultural heroes and folklore, uses his body as his primary medium. Through the use of costume, masks, environmental constructions and other disguises, he merges his own identity and contemporary perspective with that of the persona, rendering it timeless and eternal.

Ontani's personae, second to his Italian heritage, are fueled by his frequent travels to other cultures. Voyages to India between 1974 and 1978 added Shiva and Krishna, the Hindu gods of a thousand arms and a thousand faces, to his already extensive repertoire - including such diverse figures as Dante, William Tell, Don Quixote, Don Giovanni; Adam and Eve, David and Goliath, the Angel of the Annunciation; Narcissus, Onan, Bacchus, Hermaphrodite; Superman; Christopher Columbus; Pulcinella and Pinocchio. Recent trips to the island of Bali formed the inspiration for this Kitchen appearance.

While in Bali, Ontani became fascinated with the traditional masks carved by local artisans. In his use of these masks in performance, he seeks to recreate as well as reinterpret the mythology with which these masks are imbued.

Selected Group Exhibitions:

Venice, "La Biennale di Venezia:
Dalla natura all'arte, dall'arte
alla natura" June 1978
Galleria d'Arte Moderna, Bologna, "Dieci:
anna dopo: i nuovi nuovi" March 1980
Pinacoteca Comunale e Museo Civico, Ravenna,
"Tutte le arti tendono alla performance"
May 1980
Kunstalle Basel, May-June 1980
Holly Solomon Gallery, "The Italian
Wave", June 1980
Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna, Rome,
"Arte e critica 1981", July-Oct. 1981
The Guggenheim Museum, "Italian Art Now:
An American Perspective", 1982

Selected One-Man Exhibitions:

Sonnabend Gallery, "Medici Prince",
Sept-Oct 1977
The Kitchen, "Astronaut",
November 1979
Galleria Lucio Amelio, Naples,
May 1980
Galleria Mario Diacono, Rome,
Feb-March 1981
Massimo Minini, Milan, February
1981
Eva Manzio and Elena Prön, Turin,
May 1981
Serra Di Felice, New York, March,
1983

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