

LIUBA

THE FINGER AND THE MOON #3, 2012 - 2024

Participatory performance

Two videos

series of photographic compositions resulting from the performance.



The idea of the project came about after seeing the magnificence of the Gothic church of St. Augustine Museum, now deconsecrated, and its moving spirituality. I felt the desire to fill this place with prayers from different faiths and religions, convinced that every spiritual path - every 'finger' - is a way to the 'moon'. I wanted to bring people together in this special place to share their spirituality, to share their emotions, bodies, stories, and energy.

This work is part of an ongoing project "*The Finger and the Moon*", being the third performance piece - the first participatory one after my previous performance pieces at the opening of the Venice Biennale (2007) and in St. Peter's Square in the Vatican (2009).

I was inspired by the words of an Indian sage, "All religions are like fingers pointing to the moon; the important thing is not looking just at the finger." This phrase encourages acceptance of others, their history, culture, and contrasts with religious fanaticism, which may lead to conflict and war.

This participatory performance piece gather people of different faiths and religions to pray together while I meditate with them with many religions prayers. The performance was made possible thanks to the extensive work in the local community, which became part of the work itself. The whole project is a powerful symbol of peace, and of the crucial importance of dialogue between people and religions in our present time.

I believe in participatory art as a means to activate deep reflections, emotions, and synergies within people's souls. I looked for *ordinary* people to participate with their life experience and simply being themselves, as opposed to using actors to convey the same concept. The added value here is bringing everyday life and people into the art, just as they are.

This project reflects on the importance of spirituality in daily life and on the respect for different faith, fostering equality and fraternity despite differences and reflecting on the absurdity of fanaticism.

The possibility for people to feel welcome despite their different faiths and to be in synergy and peace with others was fundamental. This was evident both during the performance piece and in the pre-performance backstage, and in the related videos which resulted from them.

The performance is a meticulously curated work. From the dress I wear, featuring photos of various temples and churches I photographed in New York, to the soundtrack of the performance and videos, composed by me intersecting sacred music from various origins and periods, to the philological care of the preparation.

The two videos - one dedicated to the performance, the other to the process of building relationships and connections with people before the performance - along with the photographic series, highlight the triumph of unity in diversity through beauty and aesthetics of form. A highly relevant theme in a society like ours, where war between civilizations and people has resumed its ferocity and senselessness.

LINK TO THE VIDEOS:

The Finger and the Moon #3. Pre Performance, 2012-2024 <https://vimeo.com/1014009506>
Italy, colors, 16'33" (password: fingermoon3.1)

The Finger and the Moon #3. Performance, 2012-2024, <https://vimeo.com/1018257415>
Italy, colors, 13'31" (password: fingermoon3.2)

LINK TO THE PREVIOUS VIDEOS:

The Finger and the Moon #1, 2007-2008, <http://vimeo.com/13225965>
Italy, colours 11'43" two channel video (password: venice2008)

The Finger and the Moon #2, 2009-10, <http://vimeo.com/11992241>
Italy, colours 12'38" two channel video (password: vatican2009)

LINK TO THE PROJECT: <https://liuba.net/projects/finger-on-the-moon/>