

# PORTFOLIO

RAFFAELLA MENCHETTI



# STATEMENT

I was born in 1987 in a small village in the Marche region in Italy.

My mother is one of Jehovah's Witnesses and has always tried to inculcate me with selected religious values, which at the end I unconsciously rejected.

At the age of 16 I completely detached myself from my family by running away from home, since then I have been exploring the world of underground subculture in Europe. These experiences have led me to increase my obsession with the search for identity. Both Jehovah's Witnesses and the underground communities that I have known and lived with, have many common points: the aesthetically construction of their appearance and the rituals they practice.

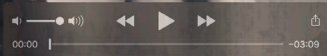
My research process moves through many artistic languages: video, photography, performance and installation. The body, the person and the objects are always at the center of my research, with these elements I depict the liquid identity of the contemporary society.

What is under the identity mask?

How do the social manipulation system work?

Which is the role of the technologies in our life? How the technology influences our way to live? These questions are the engine of my artistic research.

# UNA NOCHE CON RAMONA 3.0



**Direction/Author and performing:**

Raffaella Menchetti

**Performer creator:**

Ilaria Vergani Bassi

**Multimedia creator:**

Joaquin Roberto Diaz Duran

**Collaborators and interpreters live or online:**

Susanne Grau, Jimena Perez Salerno, Paloma Bianchi, Marina Suarez Ortiz, Nina Horowitz

**Direction and dramaturgy assistance:**

José Miguel Neira

**Artistic residence and performance:**

- "Teatros del Canal", Madrid, MPECV presentation, Madrid, Spain, 2019

- "Si fuese tu", artistic research seminar of Castilla La Mancha University UCLM, Cuenca, Spain, 2019

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- Kamikaze Artistic Residence, Garaion, Basque Country, 2019

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- Reina Sofia Museum, MPECV, Madrid, Spain, 2019

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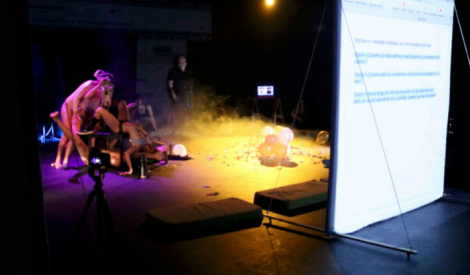
- Pradillo Theater, Madrid, Spain 2019

**Next presentation:**

Spazio Recherche postponed due to Covid-19, Roma, Italy

Nuove traiettorie XL, Ammutinamenti festival, Ravenna, Italy

A night with Ramona 3.0 is an interdisciplinary project in which performative and audio/video languages are dramaturgically employed to talk about an archetypal sexual imaginary embodied in a fake porn star. Ramona is a created imaginary based on physical and digital reality and takes shape in fiction. A Night with Ramona 3.0 is a performative installation that studies and reflects on "sexuality" as a metaphor for a "contemporary cannibal orgy." Ramona is also an interface that connects two devices: DEVICE 1 is an immersive and performative interactive situation DEVICE 2 is the space where the public remains till they are selected to go into the DEVICE 1. How does the world of the sacred, the profane, technology and social networks cross sexuality? What is the sexualization of a place, an object and a space? How is this used to manipulate? How is desire manipulated? These are some of the questions to be raised in the project.



Si lo deseas, puedes escribirme o enviarme mensajes de voz a este numero con lo que quieras que ocurra al otro lado de la tela.

Por favor, si deseas algo, no dejes de escribirlo, es lo que me mantiene con vida.

13:24 ✓✓

Quiero ver tu cara 13:26

Primer plano 13:26

No tengo cara 13:32 ✓✓

Ensañame la tuya 13:33 ✓✓



**IF THE TWO DEVICES WOULD TALK TO EACH OTHER... THEN... WHAT WOULD THEY SAY?** Letter from Device 1 to device 2

What will be the truth: What I see? What you receive? Which of our realities is the greatest? I have many doubts, I still think, thought of you, of us, of our relationship in the distance. You see what I see on another device with other times. So you are a flash of me? Or do we simply live in a common space with different realities?

With lots of love Yours,  
Device 1

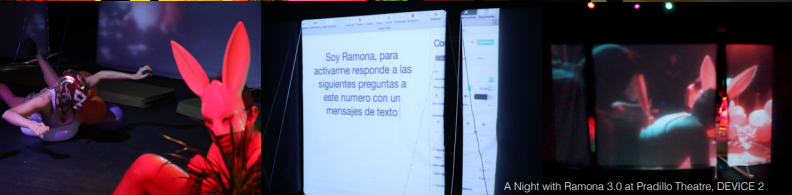


The dramaturgy revolves around the concept of manipulation through the body, words and images filtered by technology. To accept entering the world of Ramona (Device 2) is to accept the laws of a role-game, a protocol to which the public, artists and the devices themselves are subjected. In this scenic game the elements become agents, active and passive at the same time, mutually stimulated to submit, idolize, satisfy and disappoint each other. As in a ritual, the codes are imposed by Ramona, which transmits them directly by WhatsApp to each person in the audience. The public is divided without knowing. Ramona chooses on one side active and narrative eyes, on the other defines "voyeur" and observer eyes. This dynamic stimulates a change of perspective.

The experience is stratified in multiple dimensions; the stage is the world of Ramona (Device 1) where only the "Chosen one" can enter and film what happens inside. The public is separated by screens where the actions of the performers filmed by the "Chosen one" are projected. The screen of the cellphone is the medium used by Ramona through which everybody is manipulated. This project is inspired by a real event that happened to Raffaella Menchetti: << One day my father asked me: "But when you do porn, doesn't the camera bother you?" In fact, I never did pornography. I left home at sixteen to get away from Jehovah's Witnesses, the religion that my family follows very fervently. My father couldn't understand what kind of work I was doing, so he thought I was working in porn films. My desire to investigate archetypal stereotypes and sexual images was born of this misunderstanding. >>



A Night with Ramona 3.0 at Pradillo Theatre, DEVICE 1



A Night with Ramona 3.0 at Pradillo Theatre, DEVICE 2

Links to videos:

Trailer [https://vimeo.com/385050506?fbclid=IwAB2jDBiBsoJh7LUUSDj0wGYPP6uUqBzBghVK3Mc1HdEjMNqt3cVvs\\_2q1i0](https://vimeo.com/385050506?fbclid=IwAB2jDBiBsoJh7LUUSDj0wGYPP6uUqBzBghVK3Mc1HdEjMNqt3cVvs_2q1i0)

Large version Pradillo Theatre, A Night with Ramona <https://vimeo.com/385041484/7a09815ae3>

Contemporary Art Center, Museo Reina Sofia, Ramona's world <https://vimeo.com/358182773>

Artistic Residence in Garaion, Kamikaze, Pais Basque <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BDEYhmgUJKtiEapjYk0DXJJOageh1VBC/view?usp=sharing>



# REALFAKE

(I)rreale (I)reel (I)rreal (UN)real

**Direction and performing:**

Raffaella Menchetti, Clara Cirera

**Dramaturgy and supervision:**

Sara Serrano

**Collaboration:** Michelangelo Coltellì director of the online newspaper about fact checking <https://www.butac.it/>

**Artistic residence and performance:**

LA PODEROSA Barcelona - Aug 2017, Spain

FESTIVAL CONTAMINAZIONI DIGITALI and theater of experimentation in Friuli Venezia Giulia CSS (UD) - Oct 2017, Italy

Theater LEALLAV La Laguna, Tenerife - November 2017, Spain

FESTIVAL CONTAMINAZIONI DIGITALI Commons and Invisiblecities - June 2018, Italy

MEDIAESTRUCH, Sabadell - November 2018, Spain

ALTOFEST international live arts festival-Napoli - July 19, Italy

MEDIAESTRUCH, Sabadell - Dec 2019, Spain

RealFake is an site specific and interdisciplinary project which dramaturgy uses performative and audio/video languages to talk about reality against fiction and media-information manipulation in the immigration news.

This project was born in 2016 and was inspired by the idea of Andrea Kunkl with the collaboration of Raffaella Menchetti, the project was about "Fake interview" in the street, in Milan and Rome. Andrea and Raffaella interviewed several persons in the street, targeting the issues of the news and manipulating them to see the reaction and the opinion of the people casually met on the street.

The result was surprising, the interviews made with a camera gave full legitimacy to the false information (up to the limits of the absurd). After this study Raffaella Menchetti, Clara Cirera and Sara Serrano decided to continue this research and reflection on the "artifice of the Reality".

Through residences of performative and participatory research, an installation-performance device will be created, with the aim of showing live the manipulative artifice of the media. It's surprising how interviewing with a camera give complete legitimacy to the false information. RealFake group decided to investigate on the "artifice of the Reality" within the possibilities of this "legitimation".

*Live your life in real time ... live and suffer directly on the screen. Think in real time ... your thinking is immediately encoded by the computer. Make your revolution in real time - not in the street, but in the recording studio. Live your love passion in real time ... with the embedded video for as long as it takes place. Penetrate your body in real time ... video endoscopy, the flow of your blood, your bowels, as if you were there.*

J. Baudrillard



Artistic residence, LA PODEROSA, august 2017, Barcelona



## CONTAMINAZIONI DIGITALI FESTIVAL

Artegna, Udine

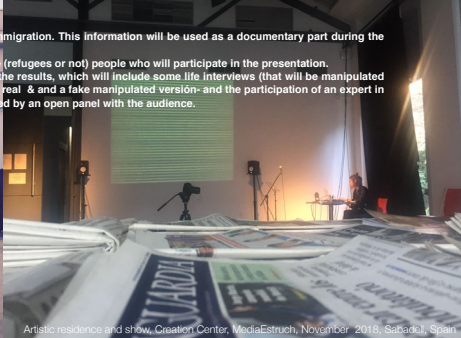
"How easy is it to manipulate information? And how many false reports on the migration issue are spread every day? The RealFake installation performance was a wonderful opportunity for collective participation and reflection. Thanks to the artists in residence Raffaella Menchetti, Clara Cirera and Sara Serrano"

Alessandro Cattunar, director of CONTAMINAZIONI DIGITALI FESTIVAL



Real Fake divides in three phases:

- 1 Street interviews on current news related to immigration. This information will be used as a documentary part during the performance.
- 2 Workshops with a group of local and immigrant (refugees or not) people who will participate in the presentation.
- 3 Performative /Installative presentation with all the results, which will include some life interviews (that will be manipulated at that same moment), documental exhibitions –a real & a fake manipulated version- and the participation of an expert in fake news (life or digital) to end the event, followed by an open panel with the audience.



Artistic residence and show, Creation Center, MediaEstruch, November 2018, Sabadell, Spain

#### Links video:

Artistic Residence Estruch, with english subtitles

<https://vimeo.com/345167769>

Video performance Altifest Napoli at Superotium hotel

<https://vimeo.com/352609729>

Show in Commons CONTAMINAZIONI DIGITALI Fest:

password: REALFAKE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zzHgEi8MXSE&t=14s>

Trailer RealFake

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EM2nCrXWhY>

ArtisticResidence Artega -La Poderosa-Leal-Lav- Contaminazioni digitali

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3YQ4Fe9SSGw&t=2s>



# SHED IDENTITY

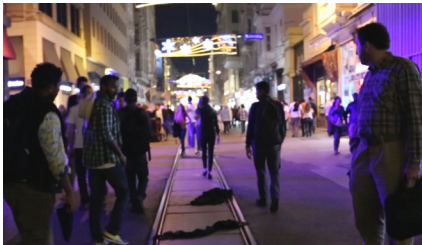
"Shed Identity" is researching, finding and stripping oneself of his identity.

The act of undressing, partially, becomes a sign of liberation and rebirth.

Identity is a research that deepens day by day and continues to change.

Istanbul (where the action is carried out) is the meeting point and the intersection of various realities, where various ethnic groups coexist in different cultures and religions, so it is the perfect background to "chase the identity" and then again walk away. In a city like Istanbul, where ancient and modern traditions meet, emerges clearly the need to reinvent the relationship between the self and the others, and the vision of oneself.

The gesture, the action and the video became an excuse to tell about an identity in perpetual change in a multi-ethnic city.



**VIDEO PERFORMANCE 2014**

**Link: <https://vimeo.com/98584771>**



# BURNING RITUALS

Short space of time: Burning Rituals.

"Burning rituals" is a contemporary "ritual". At the football stadium I recorded fans chanting sounds during the match, then inserted as music in the performance. The performance resulted in a video installation, as wishing a memory come back of an ancient ritual forever inherent in the nature of mankind. And 'so the party, the sounds, the cries, the energy released by fifty thousand fans in the stadium, turn into a real "catartic dance".

**VIDEO - PERFORMANCE - INSTALLAZIONE 2012**

**Link: <https://vimeo.com/38926783>**



Foto of the performance Burning rituals 2012

# INNER STORM

A person wearing a red robe is seated in a dark, atmospheric room. The room is dimly lit by several small, warm-toned candles scattered on the floor around the person. The person's face is partially visible, looking towards the camera. The overall mood is mysterious and contemplative.

What is the storm? What does it mean to be in the storm? Is the storm inside one-self? when searching for IDENTITY the subconscious mind can bring up surprises while dealing with it.

Inner Storm is a knowledge journey inside the self. Identity and rituality searching for the essence of life.

Water, fire, earth, air give their contribution to the transformation of the being, that does not find answers, but it does opens the door to new perspective.

As well as the plumb turns into gold through an alchemical process, so the man is facing a process of transformation within themselves through the Storm.

**Link: <https://vimeo.com/68846021>**



# IDENTITA' NASCOSTE

Setting free the body of the artist, the essence of the idea, but also to unleash the art of the definitions is the modus operandi of the action, is there no distance Between identity and the body?

Adding layers to the body is the metaphor of an identity that continues to change, what it does change is the lining, but the essence stays the same, immutable. multiple layers stratifies around the inner being, they does not change the essence, but they load it, hide it and depersonalize it.

"Every day you wear a mask and you have to take it off little by little."  
Gurdjeff

PERFORMANCE EX STUDIO PIERO MANZONI, Milano 2015

Link: <https://vimeo.com/98441517>

## STRATIFICAZIONE D'IDENTITA'

Stratificazione d'identità investigates the theme of identity research. The installation project is the result of a research that develops through video-performance-painting-photography languages.

Only a light and invisible layer divides reality from illusion.

To what extent do we see what is real?

How far do we believe what an illusion is?

Fragmentation is an approximation to reality, but so is the overall vision

*"... we are no longer alienated or dispossessed: we are in possession of all the information. We are no longer spectators, but actors in the performance, and increasingly integrated into its performance. While we could face the unreality of the world as a show, we are instead defenseless in front of the extreme reality of this world, in front of this virtual perfection ...."*

*J. Baudrillard*



Ulisse 2016 mixed media on plexiglass cm 55x30



Identità effimere 2016 mixed media on plexiglass cm 40x20

# IDENTITY

"Identity" explores the theme of the research for identity, as a contemporary age topos. The project is about exploring the mechanisms between the individual that deal with liquid reality and the effects he got from it. Performative action, dance and music come together, creating a broken dialogue through the exhibition of three performers and one musician.

The contemporary loss of identity unites bodies and places, the performance is a metaphor about the individual disintegration identity of contemporary society.

Identity is already in Place, this is the realisation of us journey in the action. The research is nothing more than a pretext to find us identity without superstructures.

The identity research is also the way to find us self in this world, the constant questions that allows people to deal with the reflection of themselves.

The realization that brings the action is that the identity is already in place, and the research is nothing more than a pretext to find us identity without superstructures.



Performance Identity, Spazio Nour, Milano 2015

# PROBABLES ALTRUISTAS

Creator, Director, Performer: Ilaria Vergani Bassi

Creator, Performer: Raffaella Menchetti

Multimedia Creator, Performer: Joaquín Roberto Díaz Durán

Produced by D.E.S.E.A.

Probables Altruistas is a live performance, which combines audiovisual media, physical theater and dance where the human body is the manipulating agent of a dancing microscopic world. We immerse in a dreamlike atmosphere, a score of rear projections, micro sounds and bodies in which the tiny dimensions and movements of the seeds are amplified by rear-projector's lenses and contact-microphones. We penetrate into a microscopic reality therefore, perception and proportions are refined. The seeds are manipulated, divided, moved, played, by human hands present but almost invisible, they seem to come alive, moved by the laws of physics. The game of manipulation is shown through the macroscopic projection of a world of shadows and lights, a subtle work of micro-movements that lead us to empathize with the smallest of the "potentials", the seed. The flow of images, sounds and bodies is the result of an intense work of synergy and listening among the artists who give life to these worlds and inhabit it in a dance of scales and dimensions.

Presentations Work in Progress:

Nov.19, DT Espacio Escénico, Madrid, ES // Oct.19, Conde Duque Cultural Center, Madrid, ES // Oct. 19, Teatro Pradillo, Madrid, ES // Jun.19, Museum Reina Sofia, Madrid, ES





Links:

Dossier: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1qsJBAsHU5khW9vXkR9o7GJbh5QozAglZ>

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/404613109/2f636fd044>

Open Rehearsal at Conde Duque Madrid <https://vimeo.com/356252389> psw: semilla



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## Biography

Raffaella Menchetti is performer, visual artist, creator and director. Her artistic work is developed between different media: photography, video, theatre, performance and installation.

She performs & exhibits his work internationally in festival & galleries like, ex studio Piero Manzoni in Milan, Reina Sofia Museum of contemporary arts in Madrid, Mom gallery in Budapest, Altifest in Napoli, MAC Museum of contemporary arts Conde Duque Madrid, Istituto Grotowskiego, Wroclaw, Poland, Nanhay gallery in Taiwan, for the main ones.

She got a Bachelor degree in New Technologies of Arts at the Academy of Fine Arts of Brera in Milan where she was assistant of the course of Artistic Anatomy of Professor Pierluigi Buglioni. She got a Diploma in the Arsenale Theatre School, Lecoq Method. She has a Master degree in "Theatre and Performing Practice and Visual Culture" in Madrid, MPECV 2019 a program in collaboration with Museum of Contemporary Art Reina Sofia and Teatros del Canal.

In recent years, she works over the topic of identity and manipulation, using artistic and technological languages in mul- tidisciplinary projects.

She teaches creative laboratory mixing technology, new media art and performing as guest artist in various cultural cen- tres and festivals in Europe.

She works in video-making in cross-disciplinary works

Raffaella directs with Clara Cirera the performative installation "Real Fake", a theatre site specific and documentary pro- ject on media manipulation that has been presented at international festivals and theatres.

Currently she is working in her project "A night with Ramona" a performative installation about a desire protocol and manipulation.