

Born in 1970 in Manila in the Philippines to a Filipina mother and Danish father, Lilbeth Cuenca Rasmussen's ethnic background is a critical source for her art. Based in Denmark since moving there at the age of eight, she studied at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen and, in 2009, attended the International Studio and Curatorial Program in New York.

At the start of her career, Cuenca Rasmussen worked mostly in video; since 2006, however, performance art has been her focus. Her performances involve scripted texts and songs, composed music, and elaborate visual elements built into the costumes and set design. In an interview at the 54th Venice Biennale (2011), Cuenca Rasmussen said, 'My work concerns political issues on a micro level. It describes human conditions in the

contemporary perspective. I use art as a tool to make my audience think twice about contemporary issues.'

In the performance piece *The Present Doesn't Exist in My Mind and the Future is Already Behind* (2009), which was presented as part of Performa 09 in New York, Cuenca Rasmussen physically interpreted seven poems written by the early modernist Mina Loy and herself. The performance took the form of a spoken-word jam in which Cuenca Rasmussen stood alone on the stage and explored the poems through vocal and choreographic interpretation. A video projection of geometric patterns danced behind her while original music (composed by Pete Drungle and Brian Bender) played. Cuenca Rasmussen wore a large white modular costume that bent to create various shapes, changing as the poems were recited.

Cuenca Rasmussen's 2013 sculpture exhibition *Mobile Mirrors* was focused around four mannequins wearing a mosaic of mirror shards, throwing reflections that covered the walls, floor and ceiling of the Christian Larsen Gallery in Stockholm. Along with the mannequins, images were shown of an individual wearing the same type of suit and walking through a commercial space, as was a performance video recorded at Den Frie in Copenhagen.

Cuenca Rasmussen has exhibited extensively, including at the Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art in Helsinki (2003), the Statens Museum for Kunst in Copenhagen (2006) and the Danish Art Foundation in Copenhagen (2007).

above
Afghan Hound series/Mobile Mirrors, 2012
 Installation view, Den Frie, Copenhagen
 Sculpture and photographs
 Photo: Lior Zilberstein
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