

Press Release

Breda Beban: My Funeral Song

11 June – 05 September 2010

Gallery 2

Admission Free



Breda Beban, still from 'My Funeral Song'. Courtesy the artist



Breda Beban, still from 'My Funeral Song'. Courtesy the artist

"Whenever I want to move people without upsetting them, I use music."

Breda Beban

Camden Arts Centre is delighted to present a new film installation in Gallery 2 by London-based Serbian artist Breda Beban.

My Funeral Song is a five-channel film work that shows Beban's close friends as they imagine a time after their death. Each screen focuses on an individual, as they listen to the song they would like to have played at their funeral. The simplicity of each of the portraits heightens attention to subtle gestures and shifts in expression that chart an inner journey, through psychological states of remembering the past and envisioning a future in their absence.

Continuing Beban's interest in the emotional capacity of music, the project centres on the power of a well-loved song to compress an outlook on life into a telling moment that is at once emotional and thoughtful, melancholic and full of joy. Beban's work often invokes universal human experiences of relationships, love and loss, observing how these are played out in the performance of life.

Previous works by Beban have included *The Most Beautiful Woman in Gucha* (2006), which was screened at the 52nd Venice Biennale - a two-channel film showing an intense encounter between a belly dancer and an intoxicated young man at a festival in Serbia. One film shows an edited version slowed-down and cropped to heighten the drama, and the other shows the unedited raw footage. Beban commented "I could remember the genuine intensity of the moment as I was filming it. However, the recorded footage didn't really match the memory of the reality as experienced on location. Therefore I decided to reclaim it through postproduction."

Notes to Editors:

Press View: Thursday 10 June from 4.00-6.30pm. Exhibition tour at 5.45pm

Camden Arts Centre is a venue for contemporary visual art and education, where ideas are made visible and people of all ages and abilities can engage in the creative process of making art. Camden Arts Centre's pioneering and varied programme of artist-led courses and other education activities has gained an international reputation as a model of good practice. It is known as a forward-thinking organisation where artists and others can see, make and talk about art.

Serbian born Breda Beban was raised in Macedonia and Croatia and is now based in London. Her work in film, video and photography has been widely exhibited including Tate Britain (2008), Venice Biennale (2007), British Art Show 6 (2005/6), Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Rijeka, Croatia (2006) and National Museum Reina Sofia, Madrid, Spain (2005). In 2001 she was the recipient of a Paul Hamlyn Award for Visual Arts. She is also the curator and creative producer of *imagine art after*, a platform for dialogue between artists and filmmakers who left their home countries and now live in the UK, with those who stayed.

Opening times:

Tuesday - Sunday: 10am-6pm

Wednesdays late 10am-9pm

Closed Mondays

Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Road, London NW3 6DG

T: +44 (0)20 7472 5500

F: +44 (0)20 7472 5501

www.camdenartscentre.org

 Finchley Road & Hampstead Underground Finchley Road and Froggnal Overground

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For images and further information please contact Elisa Ruff: elisa.ruff@camdenartscentre.org /

Tel: +44 (0)20 7472 5517