

NAAMA TSABAR

Dedicated

293 TENTH AVE, NEW YORK NY 10001

MARCH 13 - MAY 4, 2019

PERFORMANCES ON SATURDAY, MAY 4, 4-6PM



Naama Tsabar employs performance, sculpture, and photography to subvert the gender roles historically associated with musicianship. In her second exhibition at Kasmin, *Dedicated*, Tsabar further explores these themes by expanding the borders of movement of the female body. For the duration of the exhibition, Tsabar and a group of female musicians will explore a new vocabulary of movement and sound, culminating in a performance with Tsabar and her collaborators on the exhibition's closing night, May 4, between 4-6pm. This will be her first performance in New York City since 2017.

The exhibition presents three bodies of work that weave together iconic actions and objects from rock music with a more intimate portrayal of the artist's body and its movement through, within, and into the surrounding architecture. Tsabar transforms the gallery space into a site-specific sculptural and sonic installation featuring the broken remains of guitars on the floor, *Melodies of Certain Damage*, connected to the wall-based canvases, *Transitions*, that double as amplifiers. In a series of adjacent photographs, a female body penetrates and intertwines with walls in the artist's studio. The motifs of femininity, gender, disruption, destruction, and reconstruction recur throughout the exhibition. *Melodies of Certain Damage* takes as its starting point the moment after the climatic break of the electric guitar. By attending to the aftermath, rather than the destructive act itself, Tsabar interrogates structures of power, and reworks the violent act into a new sculptural and performative order. In the quiet of her studio, Tsabar smashes the

bodies of the guitars, and, engaging a Dada-esque sense of randomness and play, maps out the broken pieces where they fall, affixes the shattered parts to the floor, and then attaches new strings to reinstate the sculpture's musical functionality.

With the works installed in the gallery, each *Melody* is plugged into one of the *Transition* canvases, works that Tsabar has repurposed the internal and external components of the amplifier—wires, speaker, circuit board—to create a new formal visual experience whilst retaining the object's ability to broadcast sound. Tsabar then invites a group of female musicians to collaboratively compose a unique composition on the sculptures. Activating the *Melodies* requires the performers to insert their bodies, either sitting or lying, into the spaces between the fragments. By dispersing the centralized phallic order of the objects and the position of the body in relation, Tsabar and the performers assume the reclining physical position as an act of sensual, creative and non-hierarchical power.

ABOUT NAAMA TSABAR

Naama Tsabar (1982, Israel) has most recently performed at *ELEVATION 1049* in Gstaad, Switzerland, in February 2019, and exhibited at the Center for Contemporary Art in Tel Aviv in 2018, Kunsthau Baselland in 2018, and Prospect New Orleans in 2017 with the commissioned piece *Composition 21*. Upcoming exhibitions and festivals include *Big Orchestra* at the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt this summer and at the Nasher Museum of Art in North Carolina this September.

Selected exhibitions and performances of Tsabar include Faena Art Center, Buenos Aires, (2018); *SoundKraft* at the Museum of Arts and Design, New York (2017-18); *The Skin of Sound*, Hessel Museum of Art / CCS Bard, New York (2018); Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2017); High Line Art, New York (2016); Guggenheim Museum, New York (2014); Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tel Aviv (2013, 2010); Frieze Projects, New York (2014); Zacheta National Gallery of Art, Warsaw (2014); *MARTE-C*, San Salvador (2015); MoMA PS1, New York (2010); The Herziliya Museum for Contemporary Art, Herziliya (2006). Tsabar received her MFA from Columbia University, New York in 2010 and BFA from Hamidrasha School of Arts, Belt-Berl, Israel, in 2004. Her work is held in the permanent collections of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco; Tel Aviv Museum, Tel Aviv; Israel Museum, Jerusalem. Tsabar currently lives and works in New York.

ABOUT KASMIN

Founded in SoHo in 1989, Kasmin cultivates a program in which historic figures of Post-War and Modernism are in meaningful dialogue with the evolving practice of both emerging and established contemporary artists. With four spaces in Chelsea, New York, the gallery mounts ambitious concurrent exhibitions alongside participation in major art fairs worldwide.

Image: Naama Tsabar, *Untitled*, 2018, inkjet print, 25 1/2 x 37 inches, 64.7 x 94 cm. Courtesy of the artist.

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