



MULTIPLE MADONNA

Myriam Thyes, 2002 / 2007, video triptych, 3 channel installation, or 3-in-1 HD version, mono, 9:00, loop.

Concept, camera, „actress“ (hands), text, editing: Myriam Thyes. Voice: Natalja Kaleja. Sound: Axel Grube.

On each screen of the installation the same process is shown – in three variations: a russian Matryoshka, consisting of ten puppets one in another, is revealed and put back again. Thyes has painted the inside of the puppets in red, black and white. The text, spoken by a female voice, names elementary things, situations and feelings that may happen to all of us. The regular movement of the hands, the hardedged bright colours, the geometrical order, as well as the spoken sentences that always begin with „white ...“, „red ...“ or „black ...“ give the process a ritual and ludic character. These changes of revealing and covering correspond with the processes of life – biological and psychological. The Multiple Madonna and the Matryoshka herself are a reminder of the myths of the multiple goddess, as well as of matrilineal cultures.

Annina Zimmermann about Multiple Madonna, 2003

A woman contains a woman contains a woman ... A woman is potentially daughter, elder and grandchild at the same time. The russian Matryoshka serves as example how past role models and projections on the future nourish female identity and identifies itself as descent as well as dissociated from other generations. At the same time she outlines a female self-image which seems almost an eternity of selfs appearing in secure layers and moultings, protecting and shading each other.

