



Irena Haiduk
REMASTER
January 17-March 22, 2020

Swiss Institute is delighted to present *REMASTER*, the first institutional solo exhibition in New York by Irena Haiduk. *REMASTER* is an iteration of the artist's ongoing cinematic adaptation of Mikhail Bulgakov's novel, *The Master and Margarita* (written 1928-40). Her project is guided by one of the central principles offered by the novel: the existing infrastructure of this world must be used to create a new one. Since 2008, Haiduk's exhibitions have doubled as filmmaking studios for *REMASTER*. Here, the made world becomes a cast of living things, full of agency and the desire to act upon their surroundings. In anticipation of the next phase of this project, two levels of SI have been transformed into scenes from Bulgakov's novel: the Variety Theater on the ground floor and Apartment 50 on the second floor.

Mikhail Bulgakov (b. 1891 in Kiev, d. 1940 in Moscow) called *The Master and Margarita* his "sunset novel," and it was left unfinished at the time of his death. One of its main protagonists is a majestic and strangely benevolent Satan figure named Woland, who arrives in Soviet Moscow describing himself as "an artiste," "a professor," and "a consultant," and quickly reveals a politically darkening world unto itself. The novel valorizes examples of courage and love, however messily they appear, and is unsparing towards cowardice, seeking to reattach consequences to actions.

Haiduk's scenography for *REMASTER* is infused with her own distinctive aesthetics. Glittering surfaces, velvet furnishings, bright flowers, and shifting light conditions create a seductive environment containing fragments of spells and hidden designs. The sound of a cat's purr reverberates around the galleries with both comfort and threat.

The theater space on the ground floor draws on the Balkan cabaret tradition, and in line with the conspiratorial spirit of this underground commons, 500 keys to its locked entrance will be distributed during a ceremony at *REMASTER*'s opening reception on January 16. Inside the theater, a program renders a film without images. Entitled *Lunar Interval VI* (2020), it features Woland's black magic act, which sets the stakes for a life without imagination.

The second floor conjures the apartment where the heroine, Margarita, and Woland enter into a transaction to save the life of Master, the novel's archetypal artist. Prior to the conclusion of Haiduk's exhibition, inside this precisely furnished place, two new scenes will be recorded before a live audience.

On several evenings, *REMASTER* plays host to collaborative performances, cabaret nights, musical events and improvisations. In this way, the exhibition can also be considered as a studio where new work is made.

Events

January 16, 7PM

Opening Event | *Key Issue Ceremony* with Jovana Stokic and more

January 31, 7PM

Conversation | *Shadows Cast by Things and People: A Candlelit Talk* with Irena Haiduk and Laura McLean-Ferris

February 6, 7PM

Conversation and Beautification | *Models* with Amanda Googe, Irena Haiduk, Monika Szewczyk

February 13 & 14, 8PM

Performance | *Cabaret Économique* with Irena Haiduk, Dean Kissick, Christian Schmitz and more

March 20, 7PM

Suite | *Darby English and Irena Haiduk live at Apartment 50* with Saim Demircan, Vladimir Ivkovic, Marija Karan, Dean Kissick, Thomas Love, Anna Shteynshleyger

March 22, 8PM

Closing Performance | *Cabaret Économique Set* with Vladimir Ivkovic

On the occasion of *REMASTER*, Irena Haiduk and Johanna Rietveld have arranged the windows at Printed Matter / St. Marks. The store now carries the publications *Bon Ton Mais Non*, *Spells* and *Seductive Exacting Realism by Marcel Proust 12*, along with other flexibly priced Yugoexport items.

Irena Haiduk: *REMASTER* is made possible in part with generous support from Balkan Projects. Elements from *Lunar Interval VI* were produced in collaboration with TANK Shanghai, where *REMASTER* will be presented in March 2020. Irena Haiduk wishes to thank Lidija Delić, Frank Martin, Max Mayer, Till Wiedeck and Raphael Zollinger.

This exhibition is organized by Laura McLean-Ferris, Chief Curator, with Alison Coplan, Curator.

About Irena Haiduk

Irena Haiduk (b. Belgrade, 1982). For full biographical information, please see: <https://yugoexport.com/files/BIOGRAPHY.pdf>.

About Swiss Institute

Founded in 1986, SI is an independent non-profit contemporary art institution dedicated to promoting forward-thinking and experimental art making through innovative exhibitions and programs. Committed to the highest standards of curatorial and educational excellence, SI serves as a platform for emerging artists, catalyzes new contexts for celebrated work, and fosters appreciation for under-recognized positions. Open to the public free-of-charge, SI seeks to explore how a national perspective can foster international conversations in the fields of visual and performing arts, design and architecture.

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