

VIDEO: Here for You By Shahrzad Malekian

Duration: 15:32 min

What place does play have in the urban space? Does it have to take place in certain places, such as playgrounds or parks? Is there room for free expression in public spaces, if one respects the environment and other people? To express oneself, to assemble, to move – even to dance – in public spaces is a fundamental right in a democracy.

The film shows a performance by the artist Shahrzad Malekian that took place at the square Arneageren and inside the Sølvsberget Library and Culture House in February 2023. Three dancers explore their surroundings using a group of textile sculptures from the exhibition *Rebellious Forms* at Stavanger Art Museum.

The sculptures have geometric patterns in black and white and are made like scaffolding pads or safety cushions. The inspiration for the sculptures comes from a method of camouflaging war ships during World War I, known as dazzle camouflage. In the performance, the sculptures are used to draw attention to the invisible or overlooked through a series of playful interventions in the urban space.

Shahrzad Malekian (b. 1983 in Iran, lives and works in Oslo) makes artworks that use the human body as a starting point. Her work takes the form of performance, video, and sculpture—often in combination. Using strategies such as participation and collaboration, Malekian examines social, cultural, and political norms and structures – in art institutions as well as in public spaces.

Concept/Direction: Shahrzad Malekian

Camera/Editing: Eivind Egeland

Dancers: Maja Freiberg, Ingvild Maria Thingnes, Hanne Kristine Jensen

Sculptures: Shahrzad Malekian

Production of the sculptures: Maïna Joner

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