

Mierle Laderman Ukeles: *Washing/Tracks/Maintenance: Outside, July 22, 1973.*



Laderman Ukeles original work, *Washing/Tracks/Maintenance*, was an eight-hour long lasting performance, mirroring the length of a regular working day in the United States.

The performance was executed in front of the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford and brought forward tasks that are being performed within the museum after opening hours, behind closed doors.

The performance arose from ideas Laderman Ukeles developed and which finally became 'Manifesto for maintenance art 1969!' I got particularly interested in one sentence from her manifesto stating that;

"Now, I will simply do these maintenance everyday things, and flush them up to consciousness, exhibit them, as Art." Manifesto for maintenance art 1969! II, Part One: Personal, Mierle Laderman Ukeles.

By re-enacting the *Washing/Tracks/Maintenance* performance I will focus on the action and the repetition of the work, cleaning the same spot over and over again. It will happen in a pedestrian area in the city centre of The Hague and I will execute it sitting, with a brush. For me, taking this action into the city, being an obstacle, visible, doing something – seemingly being nothing is important; to quote Laderman Ukeles "flush them up to consciousness".

Though her work some very existential questions came about and I think today the relevance of these are no less.

-How do we value different kind of work in our society? Which are the most important tasks to be taken care of?

A simple act being so much.