

Performance art pioneer Marina Abramovic to have her first Australian show in 17 years at MONA

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THE “grandmother of performance art”, New York-based Serbian artist Marina Abramović – whose work has influenced fans including Kanye West, Jay Z and Lady Gaga – will be the star of MONA’s next major exhibition.

Abramovic’s first Australian exhibition in nearly 20 years, Private Archaeology, will open at MONA on June 13 to coincide with the Dark Mofo midwinter festival.

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Born in Belgrade in 1946, Abramovic moved to Amsterdam in 1976 and began

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working with German artist Frank Uwe Laysiepen, pioneering the field of performance art. Committed to exploring the physical and mental limits of her body, she is renowned for enduring pain, exhaustion and danger in her quest for emotional and spiritual transformation.

She has exhibited in the world's top galleries, including the Guggenheim and the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and won the prestigious Golden Lion Award for Best Artist at the 1997 Venice Biennale.

Private Archaeology will feature a variety of works from different periods throughout Abramovic's 40-year career, including photographs, video, objects and a sound installation.

"Marina Abramović seems to operate for all of us," MONA owner David Walsh says.

"Her sins, her excesses, her minimalist, egocentric actions define the boundaries of what it is to be human. I would do the stuff she does if I had the balls. And the brains. And the desperation to understand."

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