

# VALIE

THE 1980  
VENICE BIENNALE  
WORKS

# EXPORT







My artistic work centres on the human body as medium of information, as signal-bearer of meaning and communication.

I occupy myself with the pictorial representation of mental states, with the sensations of the body when it loses its identity, when the ego gnaws its way through the scraps of skin, when steel casings straighten the joints and the worn-out identity is nailed with steel pins to modern mythomania.

My body actions and my drawings feature the loss of communication and the deprivation of speech when the body defies standardised expression. The drained body as a mere part of space, hiding its wounds as a mere element of a lifeless sculpture (photographed body configurations in nature and architecture).

I try to shape the social structures (power current) and standards (mutilations) of life into a metanoia of pictures.

The body as canvas on which the society arranges its daily slapstick, making man its showman. In this sense my artistic self-representation is also the representation of society. In the same sense the discourse with my body as venue of sexual, social, emotional and other signals, which in society finds its expression in a formalised body language, always implies a discussion with society and calling-in-doubt of society, because the signal- and information-bearing function of the body includes not only the personal but also the societal code.

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Austria Pavilion, Biennale di Venezia, 1980

To regiment the structures of society and to wall in the energy of man with painful barriers until he becomes a tamed animal submitting to the standards of a construction that crushes him. An extreme effort of willpower is required to reach the state where life may freely manifest itself, an effort that overcomes pain—the hub of our society.

The body is not merely a medium of social integration, not merely a medium of expression and presentation, it is also presentation and expression as such. The body as an expression of intellectual content, voicing itself and its pain but also the state of mankind.

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VALLÉ EXPORT  
EIN DREIQUART  
1976