



Marilisa reflected, 2005, Photo Ricoh Gerbl

## EVE SUSSMAN | RUFUS CORPORATION

### THE RAPE OF THE SABINE WOMEN *Il Ratto delle Sabine*

**Opening on January 20<sup>th</sup> 2011, at 18.30**

The exhibition will run until 19.3.2011

*Opening times:*

*Tuesday - Saturday 15.00 - 19.00*

*Mornings by appointment*

The Laura Bulian Gallery is pleased to present the Italy Premiere of ***The Rape of the Sabine Women***, the renowned video musical by **Eve Sussman** and the **Rufus Corporation** which, since its preview in New York in 2007, has done the rounds of the major international exhibitions and festivals in London, Berlin, Moscow, Athens, Melbourne and San Francisco.

Created with the Rufus Corporation - a *'think tank'* of more than 100 performers, artists, musicians, writers and programmers founded by **Eve Sussman** in 2003 - , ***The Rape of the Sabine Women*** is an eighty-minute allegory, freely adapted from the myth of the foundation of Rome, according to which the Sabine women were abducted to assure the future generations of Romans.

**Eve Sussman** and the **Rufus Corporation** relocate the myth to an idealized 1960s setting with a 5-act theatrical structure, a narration devoid of spoken language and filmed on locations in Greece in Athens and Hydra, and in Berlin, Germany.

The modernist 60s setting suggest a concept of "a better life through design", inevitably destroyed by the chaos inherent in the promise itself.

Eve Sussman explains: "*In all my works I investigate narrative through gesture, psychological interactions and group dynamics*"; the recurrent themes in her works include power, desire, utopia and identity loss. While the Roman myth outlines the birth of a society, this narrative points to the destruction of a utopia. Interactions are fraught with tension and the ensuing chaos transforms the designed perfection into nothingness.

***The Rape of the Sabine Women***, half way between a film and a video, is directed by Eve Sussman, the original soundtrack is by Jonathan Bepler, choreography by Claude De Serpa Soares and the costumes are by Karen Young.

As an integral part of the project, the exhibition at Laura Bulian Gallery will also include a series of **photographs**, that have been already included in prestigious international collections.

**Eve Sussman** (1961) is a Brooklyn-based artist and filmmaker ( New York , USA ). Since 2003, together with the Rufus Corporation, she has created *89 Seconds at Alcazar* ( 2004 ) , *The Rape of the Sabine Women* ( 2007 ) , the installation *Yuri's Office* ( 2009 ) , and the current work-in-progress experimental project *whiteonwhite:algorithmicthriller* .

Her works have been exhibited in the most prestigious museums worldwide , including the *Witney Museum of Modern Art* and *MOMA* in New York, the *Museo Reina Sofia* in Madrid, the *Louisiana Museum* in Denmark and the *National Gallery* in London.