

## **Mierle Laderman Ukeles**

Mierle Laderman Ukeles is a New York-based multi-disciplinary artist who has created transformative works of art that engage the public directly. Throughout her career she has been deeply committed to feminism and the environment and has become an important role model for contemporary artists.

In 1969 she wrote the Manifesto for Maintenance Art, 1969 and over the next several years, developed the Maintenance Art Performance Series (1973-74) and I Make Maintenance Art 1 Hour Every Day (1976). The Manifesto and subsequent performances eliminated the barriers between art and life and drew attention to domestic and public work that is often unrecognized and undervalued.

Her interest in service work also included the kind of maintenance activities involved with ecological sustainability. In 1977 Ukeles became the artist-in-residence at the New York City Department of Sanitation, a position she still holds today. Through her residency she created Touch Sanitation (1978-1984), a year-long performance where she traveled throughout New York City to shake the hands of over 8500 sanitation employees. Other projects that have developed out of this residency include Garbage Out Front: a New Era of Public Design (1990) and Penetration and Transparency Morphed (1999-2002). During this time she has worked and continues to work on large-scale permanent public art works for two former landfills: Danehy Park in Cambridge, Massachusetts; Fresh Kills Landfill—once the largest municipal landfill in the world—in Staten Island, New York. Her four-part installation for Danehy Park, which began in 1989 and incorporates a variety of recycled materials, is now open to the public. She is working on Part 5 now.

This Summer, she will create Snow Workers Ballet 2 for the Echigo Tsumari Triennial in Japan. In addition to her performances, installations and public art projects, Mierle Laderman Ukeles has had numerous solo and group exhibitions within the United States and internationally. Her work was featured in the traveling exhibition WACK! Art and the Feminist Revolution. She has also recently exhibited work at the Serpentine Gallery, (London, England), Kunstlehaus (Vienna, Austria), Montehermoso (Araba, Spain), Espace Fondation EDF (Paris, France), The Jewish Museum (New York, USA), P.S. 1/MOMA (New York, USA) and the Museum of Contemporary Art (Los Angeles, USA). She has received multiple grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, fellowships from the Foundation for Jewish Culture, the John Simon Guggenheim, Joan Mitchell and Andy Warhol Foundations among others. In 2010 she was awarded the Ann Chamberlain Distinguished Fellow from the San Francisco Art Institute. She is represented by Ronald Feldman Fine Arts in New York City.