

FOR A PLACE
THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL BIENNIAL
SITE Santa Fe

The ongoing political and ideological suppression in Cuba and its repercussions on the human spirit that include the loss of identity, the intense pain of isolation, and oppression, are powerfully evoked through Tania Bruguera's haunting performances. Her art bespeaks a personal history of displacement, exile, and feminist issues interwoven throughout her crossdisciplinary art form.

In *The Burden of Guilt*, Bruguera uses the lamb, a universal symbol of sacrifice and obedience, as well as her own body to explore submission as a refuge, a means of survival. Bruguera performs with the severed head of a lamb clutched to her chest or a carcass attached to her body, intermittently washing her hands in a bowl of its fat. Her ritualistic and rhythmic movements imply prayer and supplication as they simultaneously suggest liberation. This solution, however, is imbued with guilt and burden resulting from passive complicity and forced complicity. Bruguera unmasks fear, transcending complex dichotomies of acceptance and defiance, myth and reality, hope and despair.

TANIA BRUGUERA CUBA

Born in 1968, Havana, Cuba
Lives and works in Havana, Cuba
Work on view at SITE Santa Fe



The Burden of Guilt (El Peso de la Culpa), 1997, performance