

DANIELA COMANI

The multimedia work of Daniela Comani touches subjects like history, language and identity. She often works with photos and texts from newspapers, television and books that allegedly appear familiar to us. Foreignness and intimacy, history and interpretation, and the mechanisms of comprehension are her concerns.

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MY FILM HISTORY - DANIELA COMANI'S TOP 100 FILMS

Book and installation: 100 DVD boxes, 25 movies posters, different sizes.

In response to canonical lists like the "AFI Top 100," Daniela Comani has created her own list of timeless film masterpieces, and illustrated that list with the movie posters for each film. In "Comani's Top 100", however, gender assignments are reversed: Buñuel's "Belle de Jour" becomes "Beau de Jour", and Catherine Deneuve is suddenly mustachioed. „All The President's Women“, the lovely Dustin Hoffman and Robert Redford, now wear red lipstick. Comani intends the series to unfold slowly, one by one, like a wave of historical reversals. At first glance a witty feminist subversion, collectively the pieces drive moments of recognition of where women exist in film history, and where they do not. Film narratives are reconsidered along gender lines—what if the "Godfather" was a woman, or Almodóvar's "Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown" were men? This kind of détournement is typical of Comani's practice: In previous projects she has applied her subversive touch to the Western literary canon, to contemporary European magazines, and, in fact, to the key events of the twentieth century.



My Film History - Daniela Comani's Top 100 Films, installation: Print on PVC, 270 x 420 cm, 100 DVDs boxes, 1 film catalogue, 350 x 1200 cm.
Installation view: MAMbo - Museo d'arte Moderna, Bologna, 2013



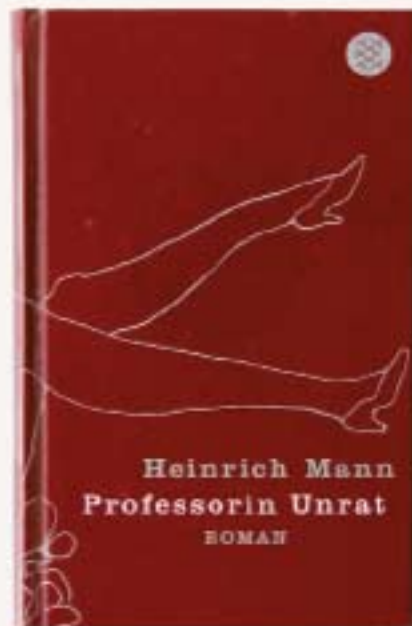
Daniela Coman's Top 100 Films Installation, Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles, 2015

NEUERSCHEINUNGEN HERAUSGEGEBEN VON DANIELA COMANI **New Publications edited by Daniela Comani**

Book and series, 51 piezo prints on Photo Rag, 28 x 20 cm each

“Neuerscheinungen hrsg. von Daniela Comani” (new publications edited by Daniela Comani) presents books we are all acquainted with, well-known classics that adorn our bookshelves. Dostoyevsky, Cervantes, Flaubert, Hemingway, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry or Robert Musil. Books we once read or should have read, now endowed with a certain sense of nostalgia, of past certainties. Or does she? Have we really ever encountered «The Sisters Karamazov», «Doña Quixote», «Monsieur Bovary», «The Old Woman and the Sea», «La Petite Princesse» or «Die Frau ohne Eigenschaften»?

The protagonists of world literature, most of them male, undergo a miraculous gender transformation, seriously challenging our established notions of literary type and roles.
- *Orlando* was here!



Daniela Comani, 8 photographs from the series *New Publications* edited by Daniela Comani, 2008, Piezo Prints on PhotoRag 300gr, 28 x 20 cm each



Neuerscheinungen hrsg. von Daniela Comani, 52 Piezo Prints auf PhotoRag, je 28 x 20 cm, 2008, Ansicht: Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles, 2011



Neuerscheinungen hrsg. von Daniela Comani, 51 Piezo Prints auf Photo Rag, je 28x20cm, 2008, Installationsfoto: Centre d'Art Passerelle, Brest 2010



Flaubert
Monsieur Bovary
Édition de la Pléiade
100

HEMINGWAY
THE OLD WOMAN
AND THE SEA

EINE GLÜCKLICHE EHE / A Happy Marriage

Piezo prints on Photo Rag, each 50 x 60 cm and digital prints on PVC 200 x 270 cm

In these photographs I appear twice, as man and woman, i.e. I play both parts of the couple. I am interested in sexual identity as an open arena dealing with minimal differences rather than total disguise. The clothes and accessories act like visual clues and are taken from my own wardrobe. When looking at this double-gendered role-split self, people often are quite amused, an amusement that can easily switch from merry fun to gender trouble.

>>.... By contrast, Daniela Comani stages herself in her extensive photo series "Eine glückliche Ehe" (A Happy Marriage) as both husband and wife in a modern intellectual marriage in which sexual roles are no longer supposed to exist. And yet the differences in their postures tell a different story. The inequality within the equality of the female protagonist makes this a subtle and subversive game.<<

Frank Wagner, The Eighth Square. Observations on an Exhibition Experiment, in: The Eighth Square, Gender, Life, and Desire in the visual Arts since 1960, edited by Museum Ludwig, Hatje Cantz Verlag, 2006





Daniela Comani, aus der Serie: *Eine glückliche Ehe*, Piezo Prints auf Photo Rag, je 50 x 60 cm, Ausstellungsfoto: *Das Achte Feld*, Museum Ludwig, Köln, 2006



Selection from the series *A Happy Marriage*, Piezo Prints on Photo Rag, each 28 x 20 cm, installation view: Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles, 2011



Daniela Comani, aus der Serie: *Eine glückliche Ehe*, Piezo Prints, je 50 x 60 und 200 x 270 cm, Museum im Kulturspeicher, Würzburg, 2007



Daniela Comani, Fotoserie *Eine glückliche Ehe*, digital photo frame, Installationsfoto: *ITaliens*, Ambasciata italiana, Berlin 2010



19. FEBRUAR

Zusammen mit britischen Frauenrechtlerinnen sprengte ich das Landhaus des britischen Schatzkanzlers in die Luft.

20. FEBRUAR

London. Ich habe mir heute Nacht das Leben genommen. Erst habe ich es mit einer Überdosis Tabletten (150 Antidepressiva und 50 Schlaf-tabletten) versucht, bin aber im King's College Krankenhaus gerettet worden, wo ich nach 2 Tage später mitten in der Nacht auf dem Klo erhängt habe.

21. FEBRUAR

New York. Ich habe Malcolm X während einer Rede in Harlem ermordet.

22. FEBRUAR

Ich habe die Geschwister Hans und Sophie Scholl hingerichtet.

23. FEBRUAR

Edinburgh. Im Roslin-Institut habe ich ein Schaf geklont: Dolly.

24. FEBRUAR

Ich habe das 25-Punkte-Programm der Deutschen Arbeiterpartei vorgestellt.

25. FEBRUAR

Unblutiger Putsch auf den Philippinen: Ich habe den Staatspräsidenten Ferdinando E. Marcos gestürzt.

26. FEBRUAR

Ich lese in der Tageszeitung *Il Popolo*: Giulio Andreotti (Ministerpräsident und Präsident der Berufungskommission für die Filmrevision) beschuldigt den Regisseur Vittorio De Sica, sein Film *Umberto D.* betone nur die negativen Seiten Italiens.

27. FEBRUAR

South Dakota. Zusammen mit 200 Indianern besetze ich Wounded Knee, um unsere Rechte einzufordern.

28. FEBRUAR

Live im Fernsehen: Ich befreie Kuwait. Der Golfkrieg endet.

ICH WAR'S. TAGEBUCH 1900–1999

It was me. Diary 1900-1999

The project „It was me. Diary 1900–1999“ exists in three versions: as audio cd, as digital big print on net vinyl and as book (2002, 2005, 2006). Languages German, Italian, English and more

>> As the work's title already suggests, It was me. Diary 1900-1999) is a diary - albeit a very special one. Written in the first person, it reports on important events of the twentieth century in its 365 entries. For example, the fictional narrator (which in the Italian version is feminine) signs the treaty dissolving the Warsaw Pact on 31st March, is killed on 2nd June by police bullets during a demonstration in West Berlin, blocks the path of an army tank on Tiananmen Square, Beijing, two days later, only to attack a Vietnamese street-vendor in Hoyerswerda, Germany, on the 17th of September.

Daniela Comani has written a diary of the twentieth century as though all the events actually happened to her. From one day to the next, from one report to the next, she is a passive witness, then an activist, then victim, then perpetrator. In this way she is seemingly the initiator of these twentieth-century historical events. As in her other works (for example, A Happy Marriage, photographic series, 2003-2007), here Daniela Comani's command of roleplaying is masterful.

The events in *ich war's* are not in chronological order, nor does the selection follow the criteria of official historiography. “Through of the personally motivated selection of facts, a kind of vortex of events develops. Names and places change, actions repeat themselves: Discoveries, inventions, elections, changes of government, wars, assassinations, new-born babies, kidnappings, etc. & The first-person narrator runs breathlessly - as perpetrator and victim - through the history of a century, her century”. ⁽¹⁾ <<

Text by Inke Arns in: *History will repeat itself*, Revolver - Archiv für aktuelle Kunst, Frankfurt am Main 2007

(1) Editorial note in :*Daniela Comani, Ich war's. Tagebuch 1900–1999*, Revolver – Archiv für aktuelle Kunst, Frankfurt am Main, 2005



Daniela Comani, *Ich war's. Tagebuch 1900-1999*, Print auf PVC, 300 x 600 cm, Installationsfoto: *History will repeat itself*, Hardware MedienKunstVerein in der PHOENIX Halle, Dortmund, 2007



Daniela Comani, *Ich war's. Tagebuch 1900-1999*, Wand- und Audioinstallation, Ausstellungsfoto: *History will repeat itself*, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, 2007



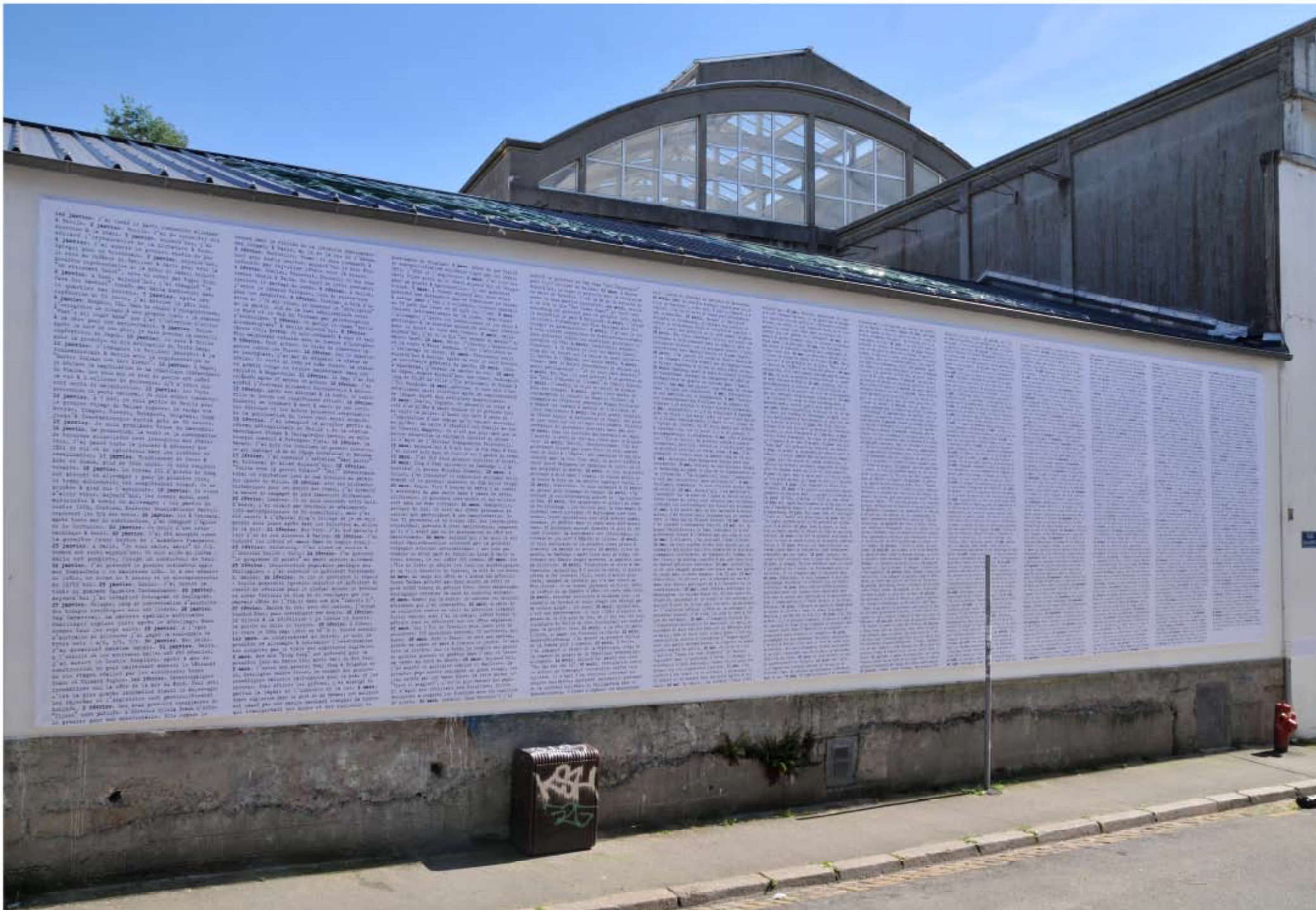
It Was Me. Diary 1900-1999, print on pvc, 400 x 600 cm, The Pavilion of the Republic of San Marino / 54th Venice Biennale 2011

n three hours, the flight costs 365 francs. **March 23rd.** On the island of Crete I begin the excavation of the buried city Knossos, b
ia. I continue the air raids I began. **March 26th.** Due to the Liberian oil tanker Torrey Canyon, which I am in charge of, collid
e through the garden. I run to the river. On the bank I fill heavy stones in my coat pocket and walk into the water. I leave my walki
ns. The topic is the results of the elections, Silvio Berlusconi has won with a right-wing coalition. **March 30th.** London. At Christie
e film 'Der blaue Engel' by Josef von Sternberg has its première. After the show I go to Hollywood. **April 2nd.** I occupy the British col
in Luther King, who is standing on the balcony of the motel Lorraine. He dies in hospital an hour after the attack. **April 5th.** Fran
troops. **April 8th.** After 3 years of restauration work I reopen the Sixtine Chapel. The Japanese TV company Nippon Television financial
parliament elections in Japan I allow women to vote for the first time. **April 11th.** Berlin, Kurfürstendamm. I have been severely woun
I circle the earth on the spaceship Vostok I. **April 13th.** USA. I am sentenced to 35 years in prison because of a bank robbery. **April 15th.**
e stadium, when suddenly I pour in with 4000 additional fans. 95 people are squashed to death, more than 170 are injured. The semi
ed Khmer take the capital under my leadership. **April 18th.** Earthquake in San Fransisco. Today at 5 in the morning the first quake was
building is destroyed by my car bomb: 167 dead. **April 20th.** Today is my birthday. I am the guest of honor at the UFA palace near the
da for 2 kopeks. **April 23rd.** In Berlin I opened the Palace of the Republic, seat of the People's Chamber of the German Democratic Re
burg in Baden-Württemberg. I try to prevent the transport to the temporary storage site at Gorleben in Lower Saxony. **April 26th.** In
total and controlled disarmament and explain: We will never have peace in the shadow of rockets. **April 28th.** New York. Constance Col
ni and his lover Claretta Petacci on the Piazzale Loreto in Milano for everyone to see, heads down. **April 30th.** Hamburg, tennis tou
' . **May 3rd.** Victory for the conservatives at the elections in the House of Commons: I become the British Prime Minister. **May 4th.** T
ants, 2 trainers. **May 5th.** Near Adriano on the island of Sicily, Eurelius, my first solar power plant in Europe, supplies electric
the German Parliament on the Day of Liberation: "Guilt, like innocence, is not collective, but personal". **May 9th.** Stuttgart, Stam
aribaldi street in Buenos Aires I kidnapped Adolf Eichmann, who had been hiding under the false name of Ricardo Klement. **May 12th.** Be
decided that my oil company has to be dissolved into a trust. The Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, my proprietary company, contro
e constitution. **May 18th.** US state of Washington. The volcano Mt. St. Helens erupts. The eruption spews ash and bits of stone 20 km
illion by Mies van der Rohe is a flat building out of steel, green glass, yellow onyx and an open construction with free standing wa
te secretary of the US, because of his statements about the Italian communists. **May 21st.** I fly over the Atlantic in 33 hours and 29
section of the freeway. Giovanni Falcone, his wife, the judge Francesca Morvillo, and the bodyguards are killed in the car on the
nd his troupe in the Vienna Prater. **May 27th.** Paris. I am at the Théâtre du Vieux-Colombier for the première of Sartre's piece No
survived the war, as it doesn't fit into the concept of the socialist city planning. **May 31st.** I find the corpse of Rosa Luxemburg in
York. Valerie Solanas shoots at me with a Beretta 32. I am badly hurt and taken to hospital. **June 4th.** Beijing, Tiananmen Square.
roy the Iraqi atomic reactor site Tazum near Baghdad shortly before its completion. **June 8th.** Cologne. In the fight to be number on
invalidated. **June 12th.** I (after having disappeared in the GDR under the false name Eva-Maria Schnell) was arrested today in Magde
ito Radicale and have been given a seat in parliament. **June 16th.** I have started on a flight around the world with the spaceship Vo
the western occupation zones. The Reichsmark loses its value, I replace it with the German Mark. **June 20th.** USA. I have been sentenc
al Union. **June 22nd.** I attend the World Championship football game in the Volkspark stadium in Hamburg: The German Democratic Repu
rström, I arrive in Berlin. I have driven my car, an Adler Standard, around the world for the last 2 years and 1 month, passing th
n against plans of assassination I start a rocket attack on the Iraqi capital Baghdad. **June 28th.** Las Vegas. In a boxing fight I b
d in the German Democratic Republic as well. With my last notes I bought a pipe on the Schönhauser Allee. **July 1st.** After 156 year
ands on Mars. **July 5th.** 10th Berlin Film Festival: I won the prize for best director for my film 'Breathless'. **July 6th.** Berlin. E
stroy the Soviet capital Moscow. **July 9th.** Straßlach near Munich. I kill the Siemens manager Karl Heinz Beckurts and his driver
est area for nuclear weapons. **July 11th.** Somewhere in the world the five billionth human being is born. In a symbolic act I cong
a Mercuri answered: "I was born a Greek and will die a Greek. Pattakos was born a fascist and will die a fascist". **July 13th.** I exc
l the elevators get stuck. Two important power plants that provide the city with electricity have been hit by lightning. I repair
ay of German Art. I inaugurate the exhibition 'Degenerate Art'. **July 19th.** Paris. During the World Exhibition I opened the first le
troys the headquarters of the British mandate troops in Palestine, accommodated in the hotel King David. 91 people die, more than
are fished out of the river. Italian art historians agree that the heads are sculptures by Amedeo Modigliani. It was, however, a j
first test tube baby is born: Louise. **July 27th.** On the island of Java in Indonesia a Cholera epidemic breaks out. I catch it. Jul
iren). **July 31st.** In the encyclical 'Humanae vitae' I say no to the contraceptive pill. **August 1st.** In Berlin I open the Summer 01

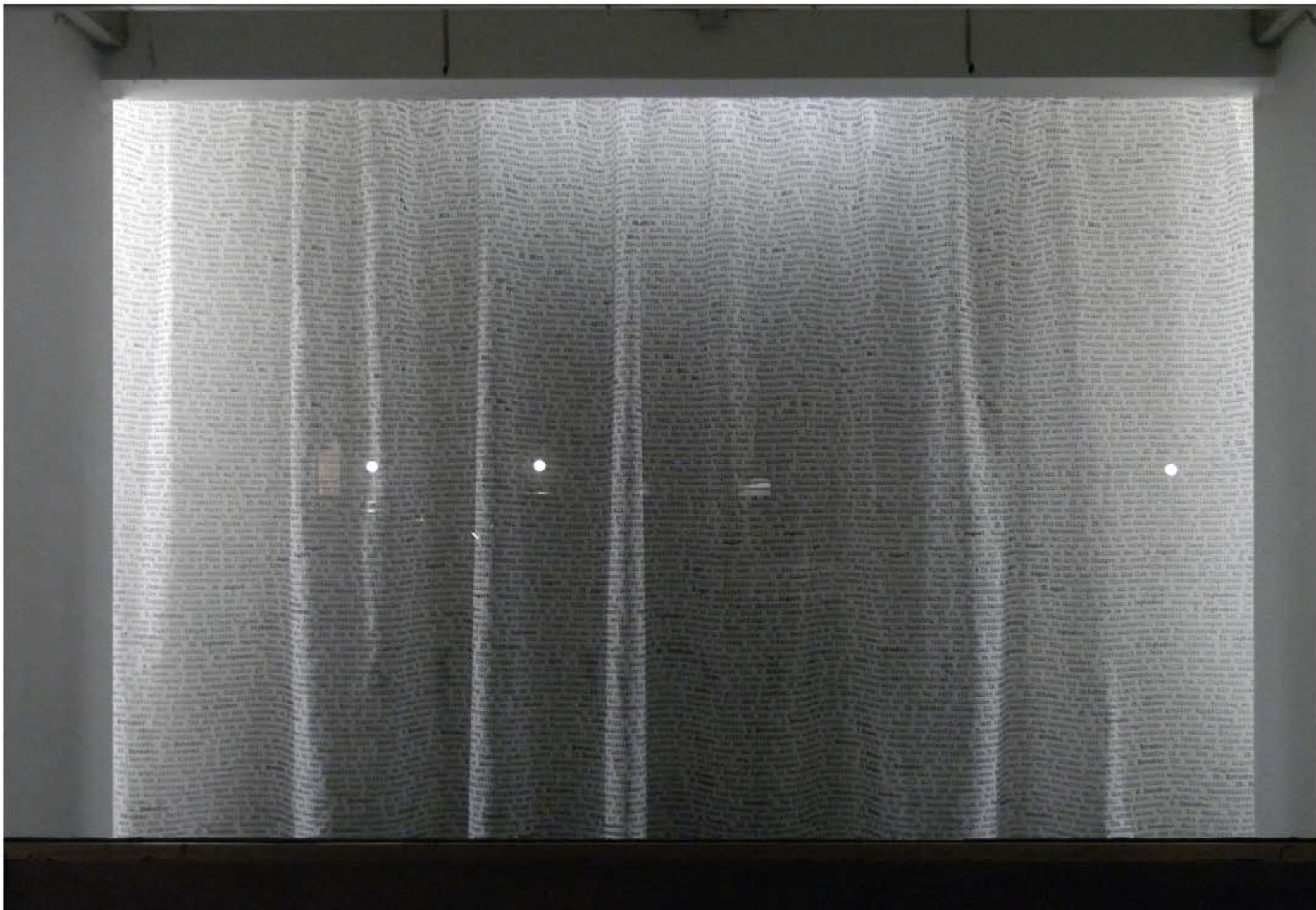


Daniela Comani, *C'était moi. Journal 1900-1999*, print on net vinyl, 500 x 1000 cm, Le Printemps de Septembre, Musée Les Abattoirs, Toulouse, 2012

pour les 70 étudiants (la province autonome New York. 25 septembre. Je suis surdose de sommeil à la Turquie et de l'unifier à la Grèce. 3 octobre. Je recommence le voyage des Balkans. 14 octobre. Je suis de nouveau au bord de la faillite. 16 octobre. Je lis à propos de la mort de la femme dans une lettre de
depuis 456 ans, je vote pour Angela Davis. 14 octobre. Marseille. J'inaugure le musée Solomon R. Guggenheim à New York. C'est le dernier bâtiment de l'architecture
l'Armée Républicaine Irlandaise. 21 octobre. J'inaugure le musée Solomon R. Guggenheim à New York. C'est le dernier bâtiment de l'architecture
fiscale. 25 octobre. "Vendredi noir" à la Bourse de New York. Je suis de nouveau au bord de la faillite. 16 octobre. Je lis à propos de la mort de la femme dans une lettre de
des campements militaires égyptiens dans la péninsule du Sinaï. Ce qui amplifie le conflit autour du canal de Suez. 3 novembre. Je lis à propos de la mort de la femme dans une lettre de
Je suis favorable à la création d'un Etat hébreu en Palestine. 3 novembre. Je lis à propos de la mort de la femme dans une lettre de
rompus par les blancs. 6 novembre. Ma première mission pour Greenpeace. Mission dans les îles Alifan pour protester contre les opérations de
juste après qu'Hitler ait quitté le restaurant. 7 personnes sont tuées, 65 blessées. Avant construit et installé la bombe, je suis en train de
signe l'armistice avec la France. 12 novembre. J'ai inauguré le Golden Gate à San Francisco après 4 années de travaux. Le pont est le 17^e le plus
cinquième fois. 16 novembre. Islamabad. Je remporte les élections législatives au Pakistan. Je suis le premier homme à être élu à la tête d'un
enfants) de la secte du Temple du Peuple se suicident dans la jungle du Guyana. Dirigée de la secte, j'ai obtenu le statut global par le biais
près de Rome, à l'Italie. Il s'était réfugié en Argentine. 22 novembre. J'ai tiré sur le président des Etats-Unis John F. Kennedy dans un restaurant
24 novembre. Ma défaite contre les puissances d'Europe centrale allemandes, austro-hongroises et belges sur le Champ des batailles dans le sud
Theatre de New York, je regarde le film "Casablanca" de Michael Curtis avec Humphrey Bogart et Ingrid Bergman. 27 novembre. Je suis le premier
J'ai décidé l'abolition de la monarchie et proclamé la République populaire Yougoslave. Le mariage de la reine Elizabeth II avec le prince Philip
avec Babeth Mangolte derrière la caméra. 6 décembre. Je déclare l'indépendance de l'Irlande à l'occasion de la prise de la Bastille
Je déclare la guerre aux Etats-Unis d'Amérique. 12 décembre. Je déclare l'indépendance de l'Irlande à l'occasion de la prise de la Bastille
meurtre de 27 personnes. 20 décembre. Je déclare l'indépendance de l'Irlande à l'occasion de la prise de la Bastille
Bucarest. La fête célébrée en mon honneur se transforme en une opération manquée à cause
boxe. 27 décembre. Télégram. Je change le nom national de l'Etat de la Roumanie en République Socialiste de Roumanie
1^{er} décembre. Pendant une fête de Noël, il y a une explosion dans un magasin de jouets.



Daniela Comani, *C'était moi. Journal 1900-1999*, print on net vinyl, 400 x 1600 cm, Centre d'Art Passerelle, Brest, France, 2010



Daniela Comani, *It Was Me. Diary 1900-1999*, print on canvas, 250 x 500 cm, installation view: September Gallery, Berlin 2010

...心中刊登了第一批彩色照片。6月4日 北京天安門廣場。為了抗議，我站
一位女太空人的身份乘坐太空船東方6號環繞地球飛行。6月11日 我在西德把第175條
裁。6月22日 我參加在漢堡體育館的世界足球錦標賽。德國民主共
我在石墻酒館抵抗警察的鎮壓。爆發了嚴重的街頭衝突。6月27日
。7月1日 156年後我把香港歸還中國。7月2日 我展示了菲亞特50
7月8日 我在軍事簡報中決定攻擊及毀滅蘇維埃首都莫斯科。7月9
12日 今晨我致電在紐約的瑪麗娜·墨蔻莉：「墨蔻莉女士，希臘內
全部停頓，所有升降機都不動，兩座向城市供電的主要發電廠被
的拉斯滕堡，我行刺希特拉失敗。7月21日 我是第一
...的玩笑：我用電動工具仿冒那些頭，然後把它
...民營，我殺了600人(大部分是婦孺)。
...。8月5日 我發現瑪麗蓮夢露
...被判死刑，今天我
...了。



Daniela Comani, *Ich war's. Tagebuch 1900-1999*, Audioinstallation, CD 1h, *Transmediale08 - conspire!*, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, 2008

ICH WAR'S. IN 32 TAGEN UM DEN ALEXANDERPLATZ. 1805–2007

It was me. Around Alexanderplatz in 32 days. 1805-2007

Competition „U2 Alexanderplatz“, Neue Gesellschaft für Bildende Kunst e.V (NGBK)
32 billboards, each 187x377cm, Alexanderplatz Station, Berlin
October 25, 2007 - 29. February 29, 2008

Daniela Comani opens a 200 years old history book and uses the billboards in the U2 Alexanderplatz station to describe real events which took place around Alexanderplatz. Written in typewriterstyle and in the first person singular, the chronicle resembles a private diary with the artist as the originator of the events.



13. August

Nach der Bekanntmachung des Verkehrsministeriums der DDR müssen die Züge der U-Bahn-Linie D aus demokratische Berlin ohne Halt durchfahren. Die U-Bahnhöfe Bernauer Straße, Rosenthaler Platz, Weinmeisterstraße, der Bahnsteig D des Bahnhofs Alexanderplatz, die Bahnhöfe Jannowitzbrücke und Heinrich-Heine-Straße dieser Linie werden für den öffentlichen Verkehr geschlossen. Ich habe den Übergang in der Unterführung an Alexanderplatz zugemauert und die Ringänge oberirdisch verriegelt.

Alexanderplatz



26. Mai

Nachdem ich Ende April den U-Bahnhof Alexanderplatz eingestellt habe ich heute den ältesten Bahnsteig wieder eröffnet.

4-6

Alexanderplatz

17. Juni

Auf dem Alexanderplatz, in der Stalinallee und in anderen Hauptstraßen der Innenstadt werden die Proteste der Arbeiter von sowjetischen Panzern auf meinen Befehl hin zerschlagen.



Direction
Hauptbahnhof

281 4
281 1
281 2

Direction
Hauptbahnhof

Informational poster on the left wall.

Informational poster on the left wall.

Informational poster on the right wall.

Informational poster on the right wall.

Informational poster on the right wall.

PRINTED WOMEN

slide projection, 2000-2001 and poster, 2008

Daniela Comani's works are related to questions concerning history, language and identity. She uses photos and texts taken from newspapers, television and books – things and images which appear very common to us. By balancing strangeness and intimacy, history and interpretation she is pointing out the mechanisms that are established with our perception of images.

For the exhibition *Bildpolitiken (Picture Politics)* she is presenting her piece *Printed Women*, in which she examines the logic of the classification of “women”. This project consists of a slide projection of about 300 selected photos taken from magazine and papers, unknown and prominent faces of women from different fields: fashion, politics, culture, publicity, sport, chronicle, etc..

Installation view: *Bildpolitiken / Picture Politics*, April 24 - July 6, 2008, Salzburger Kunstverein, Austria





The man the world is afraid of ... is actually a woman