

4. Performance at Savvy Contemporary: 17th and 18th of September 2010, at 8.30 pm.

"Every woman who had to wear the veil for years and is then depositing it will bear witness to the fact that walking without it is difficult at first - as if the legs were unable to act in the right way because of their bareness." Ayaan Hirsi Ali

Participating artists: Chris Enke, Cilgia Carla Gadola, Simone Grindel, Romana Ramer, Livia Rutishauser

Ayaan Hirsi Ali (b. 1969, Somalia) was destined to be a victim of a 'forced marriage', which she eluded by escaping to Europe and is currently residing in the USA. She has dedicated her life towards the protection of the rights and liberation of women in Islam. This decision did not only lead to a disruption of her relationship with her family, but also prompted a constant harassment of her life.

"In order to be able to fulfil the function of a 'Son producing factory' girls are taught early on in life to be subordinate." Ayaan Hirsi Ali has succeeded in doing the first step out of such an existence, but she describes in her autobiography *I am a nomad: my fight for the liberation of women* how difficult it is to get rid of certain paradigms, which were imposed upon her as a child.

"Not only courage is needed to detach oneself from old habits. First of all, the current lifestyle has to be questioned. The view must be open to the fact that there might be other possibilities besides those we are acquainted to and those proclaimed by our surrounding to be right.

When a woman takes off her veil she has to adapt, not only, to the new physical freedom of movement. By discarding the veil, she also gets rid of her previous mental attitude. Everybody is tied or locked up to many attitudes and most of them are not even realized. Because we were taught in our childhood, what should or should not be done and thus many behavioural patterns have been solidified and considered to be right without any periodical re-evaluations.

Why not take a different track on your way to the metro-station, so as to discover something new? Or maybe soup from a wine glass tastes better than from a soup bowl? Can we gain a new insight by doing so?

In the 4th performance at SAVVY Contemporary 5 performance artists will break their normal attitudes so as to discover new possibilities, reminiscent of Ayaan Hirsi Ali. The quotation by Ayaan Hirsi Ali will be interpreted from a different perspective on each performance evening; which in itself is a divergence from or break of the normal concept of the performance series at SAVVY Contemporary.