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# Mierle Laderman Ukeles - Seven Work Ballets



## Synopsis

New York activist artist Mierle Laderman Ukeles's 1969 manifesto *MaintenanceArt: Proposal for an Exhibition* was a major intervention in feminist performance and public art challenging the domestic role of women. Ukeles proclaimed herself a maintenance artist arguing for the intimate relationship between creative production in the public sphere and domestic labor a relationship whose intricacies she has been unraveling ever since. Starting in 1977, she became an unsalaried artist-in-residence at the New York City Department of Sanitation, a position that enabled her to introduce radical public art as mainstream culture into an urban system serving and owned by the municipal population. This substantial and long overdue monograph documents her art ballets, a series of large-scale collaborative performances involving workers, trucks, barges and tons of recyclables performed between 1983 and 2012. Texts by Kari Conte, Krist Gruijthuijsen plus a conversation with Ukeles, Tom Finkelpearl and Shannon Jackson.

## Book Information

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She is one of the most important artists of our times. A well edited book.

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