

UPSTREAM
GALLERY



**IS
MY
BODY
PUBLIC?**

ALICIA
FRAMIS

23.11-
22.12.2018

FORBIDDEN
COLLECTIONS



Upstream Gallery is pleased to present *Forbidden Collections*, the first solo exhibition by multi-disciplinary artist Alicia Framis with the gallery. Within her practice, Framis blends architecture, design, fashion and performance. *Forbidden Collections* brings together two collections that are designed and made for women by women. *Is My Body Public?* is a collection that explores the borders between what is public and private in our everyday lives. The dresses resemble the aesthetics of women's lingerie but are in fact banners for demonstration. The text 'Is my Body Public' is embroidered on every dress in 15 different languages, representing women worldwide. The fabric of the dresses is very fragile, and the work is subtle, but the message is strong. The *LifeDress* collection consists of dresses made out of airbag fabric from cars, a high tech material made in Japan with a high resistance to impacts and fire. Each dress is made to protect against a different form of (sexual) harassment, and designed to change form when intimidation occurs. Within this collection, the action is in the dresses itself. *LifeDress* is connected to Framis' *Anti_dog* collection, that consisted of 23 pieces of clothing made from bullet-proof material to protect women, particularly women of colour, against violence, and with which Framis represented the Netherlands in 2003 at the Venice Biennial.

Alicia Framis (Barcelona, 1967) studied at the Barcelona University and the École de Beaux Arts in Paris. She completed two masters programs, one at the Institut d'Hautes Etudes, Paris and another at Rijksakademie Van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam. Framis won Prix Lleida Contemporary Art, Spain (2000) and Prix de Rome, Italy (1997). Her recent exhibitions include the Kunsthalle Nuremberg, (2017), CREATIVETIME New York (2015), Museum voor Moderne Kunst Arnhem (2013), PERFORMA BIENAL New York, 2011, La Frac Haute-Normandie, Rouen (2012), Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing (2010), MACBA, Barcelona (2008), Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2002), and many more.

Framis represented The Netherlands in the Dutch Pavilion at the 50th Venice Biennale (2003) and has had work featured in the 2nd Berlin Biennale (2001), Performa 09 New York (2009), and Manifesta 2 Luxemburg (1998). Her work is included in numerous permanent collections, including those of Collection FRAC Lorraine (France), Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst (Switzerland), Museum Boijmans van Beuningen (Netherlands), MUSAC de Castilla y León (Spain), Rabo Art Collection (Netherlands), Stedelijk Museum Collection (Netherlands), Avalon Park (New York, USA) among others.





IS 私の身体は क्या मे
MOEDENIM
MI 利己身のものでは MW
TELLO
LICHTNAM शरीर
ПУБЛИЧНО?
OPENBAAR?
सार्वज

کیا میں اس MON
جیسے MY
CORPORATE BODY
PUBLICO? PUBLIC?
نیک ہے؟



LifeDress

Framis often starts out from actual social dilemmas to develop novel settings and proposed solutions. She develops platforms for creative social interaction, often through interdisciplinary collaboration with other artists and specialists across various fields. The *LifeDress* collection offers a new way for demonstration against sexual harassment and violence towards women, and consists of dresses made out of airbag fabric from cars: a high tech material made in Japan with a high resistance to impacts and fire. Each dress is made to protect against a different form of (sexual) harassment, and designed to change form when intimidation occurs. The work can be seen as a social comment on gender patterns in our society nowadays. It deals not only with the more serious cases of sexual harassment but also with the general attitude that still exists amongst many men who think it is acceptable to harass or catcall women in the street. Some forms of sexism and ways of speaking about women are so engrained into our society that we hardly notice them anymore or brush them off as 'locker room banter'. There are myriad ways in which women try to protect themselves in their everyday lives against sexual harassment and violence and these dresses make us aware of this crude reality. Framis employs elements of technology, activism and performance in this new work. With *LifeDress* she aims to bring women together and open the debate. Within this collection, the action is in the dresses itself, that blow up like an airbag when the wearer is inappropriately touched, confronting the perpetrator with the embarrassing realisation that what he is doing is not acceptable. The surprise occurrence is meant to set him straight. In this way, Framis discusses a serious issue, but through a surrealistic act.





LifeDress (Esther), 2018
Airbag fabric (nylon)
Unique

LifeDress (Lilet), 2018
Airbag fabric (nylon)
Unique

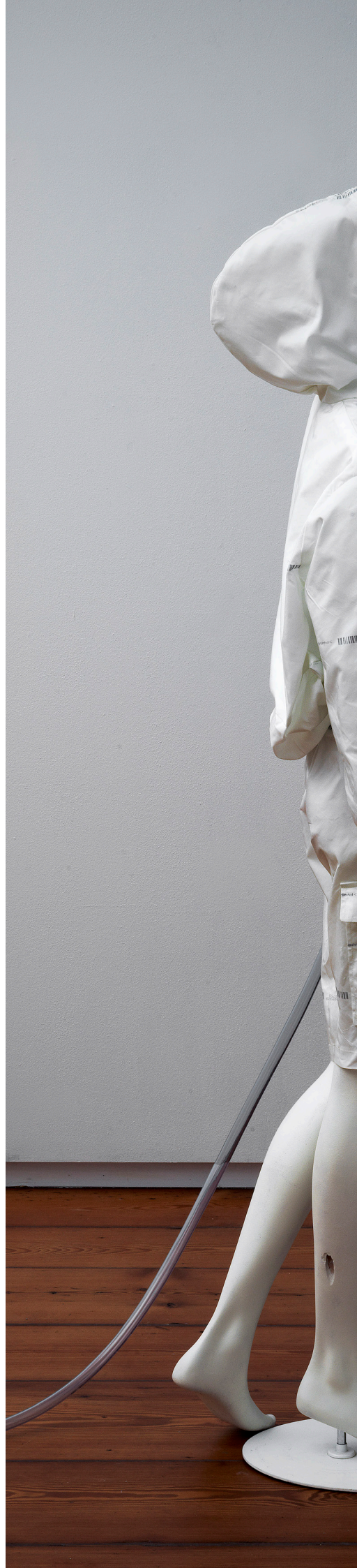








LifeDress (Nuria), 2018
Airbag fabric (nylon)
Unique





LifeDress (Titi), 2018
Airbag fabric (nylon)
Unique





LifeDress (Natasha), 2018
Airbag fabric (nylon)
Unique



LifeDress (Maria), 2018
Airbag fabric (nylon)
Unique



LifeDress (Kuniko), 2018
Airbag fabric (nylon)
Unique







s, 2018
:28 min
3 + 2AP



EU
ORP
PUBLICO

مليونا

عقولنا



Is My Body Public?
performance during Amsterdam Art Weekend,
2018



كاي
MEU
CORPO É
PÚBLICO?

CHA
PUBBLICO?
PUBBLICO?



ALICIA FRAMIS
ON THE
FORBIDDEN
COLLECTIONS

GERESERVEERD
RESERVED

Is My Body Public?
performance during Amsterdam Art Weekend,
2018

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a white, form-fitting bodysuit, stands in a white studio. She is holding a large, sheer white sheet behind her back with both arms raised. The sheet is spread out, and the text "IS MY BODY PUBLIC?" is printed in large, bold, black capital letters across the center of the sheet. The floor is white and reflective, showing a faint reflection of the woman and the sheet. The background is a plain white wall.

**IS
MY
BODY
PUBLIC?**



Is My Body Public?

Is My Body Public? is a collection that explores the borders between what is public and private in our everyday lives. The dresses resemble the aesthetics of women's lingerie but are in fact banners for demonstration. The text 'Is my Body Public' is embroidered on every dress in 15 different languages, representing women worldwide. The fabric of the dresses is very fragile, and the work is subtle, but the message is strong. With *Is My Body Public?*, Framis questions what is public and what is still private in today's world. Nowadays it seems as though privacy is something of the past. Our movements, both physical and digital, are followed constantly. We have given up a lot of our privacy with the introduction of the internet and with new technologies. When going through airport security we are closely searched by guards. The government collects all kinds of data about its citizens that is in fact very private information. Framis asks herself where her privacy ends. Where does the fear of the other and the need to control people by gathering as much information as possible begin? The issues of privacy and body politics that Framis discusses in this work take on a different, more specific meaning for women. Women in many countries worldwide are still not allowed to make decisions that concern their body, for example in places where women have to obey certain dressing rules or codes. At the same time women's bodies, appearances and ways of dressing seem to be a subject that the public, in particular men, think they can publically comment on or critique however they like, for instance by harassing women in the streets. Women's bodies in these cases seem to be viewed as public property. In many places in the world women are not able to undergo legal, safe abortions and in many places where this is possible women are judged for doing so. Here again others, often men, are deciding over women's bodies and their sexual and reproductive rights. These are just a few examples of social issues regarding sexism and women's rights that lead to the question Framis is posing with this work. The dresses offer a tool for women to explore different, playful ways of demonstrating important issues such as (systematic) sexism. By working together with women from different backgrounds in the performance the work gains a participatory and global character.





Is My Body Public?
performance during Amsterdam Art Weekend,
2018

NI MOI
CORPS
GUB
MMA
क्या मेरा
کیا میرا

MEU
جس عوام

CORP
ہے

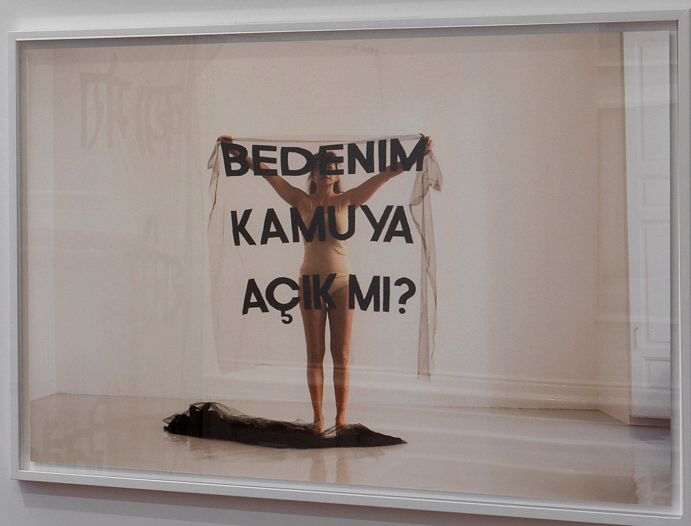
PUBLICO?

MY

BODY

PUBLIC?

सार्वजनिक है?





Is My Body Public?

(From left to right, top to bottom: French, English, Japanese, Thai, Portuguese, Korean, Dutch, Indian, Swahili, Turkish, Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Urdu, German), 2018

Inkjet print on photosatin paper mounted on dibond
66,5 x 100 cm

Edition of 1 + 1 AP



利的身体は
BMOËM หรือว่า K WANIMC
私自 MION のでは
KAMUYI 私自 MION のでは
TELO ขอนจน WANGUEA
ACIK MI? ชั่งน้ำหนัก WANGUEA
PUBLICHO? CHAAM

OPENBAAR

ON O
ORPS
TIL
BLIC
A?
R?

MEU
CORPO
PÚBLICO?

کیا میرا
ک्या میرا

جسٹم عولفم

शरीर

IS
MY
BODY
PUBLIC?

सार्वजनिक है?



Above: *Is My Body Public? (French)*, Below: *Is My Body Public? (Swahili)*
Black tulle, embroidered with black cotton thread
147 x 165 cm

Edition of 1 + 1 AP



Above: *Is My Body Public? (Korean)*, Below: *Is My Body Public? (Dutch)*
Black tulle, embroidered with black cotton thread
147 x 165 cm

Edition of 1 + 1 AP



Above: *Is My Body Public?* (English), Below: *Is My Body Public?* (Urdu)

Black tulle, embroidered with black cotton thread
147 x 165 cm

Edition of 1 + 1 AP



Above: *Is My Body Public? (Thai)*, Below: *Is My Body Public? (Portuguese)*

Black tulle, embroidered with black cotton thread

147 x 165 cm

Edition of 1 + 1 AP



Above: *Is My Body Public?* (Indian), Below: *Is My Body Public?* (Turkish)

Black tulle, embroidered with black cotton thread

147 x 165 cm

Edition of 1 + 1 AP

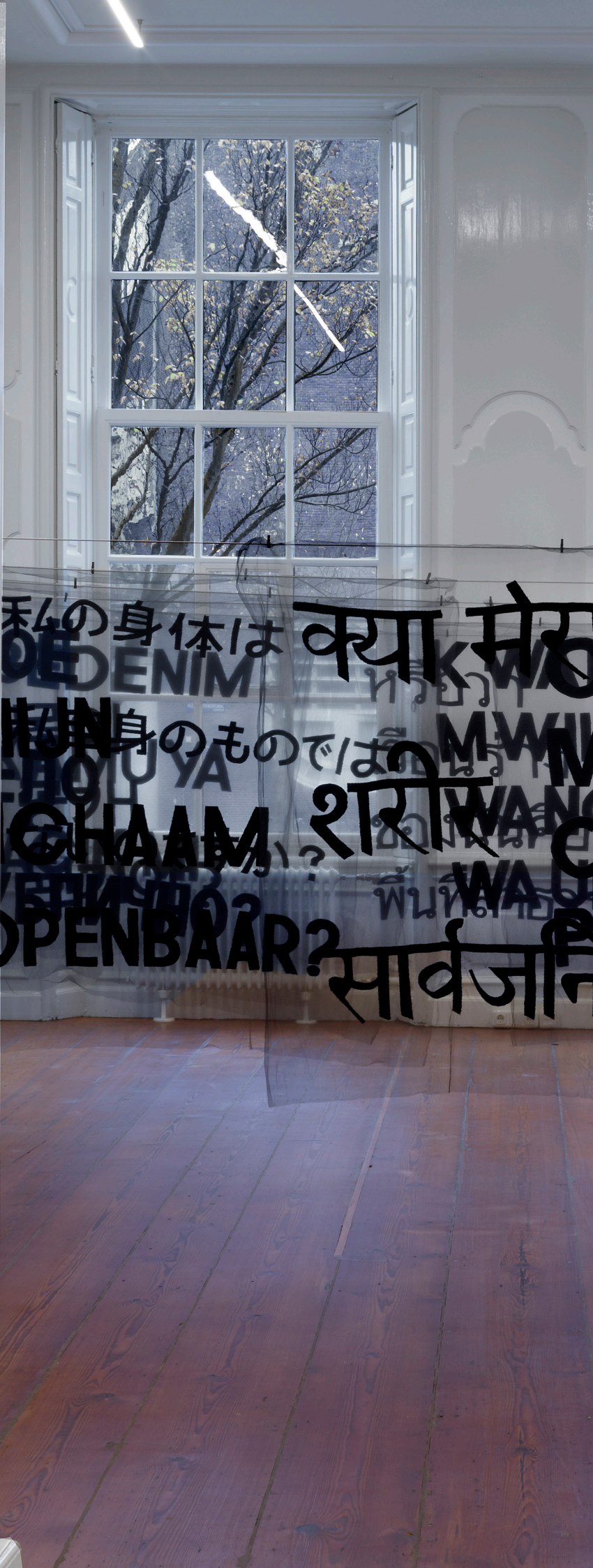


Above: *Is My Body Public? (Russian)*, Below: *Is My Body Public? (Japanese)*

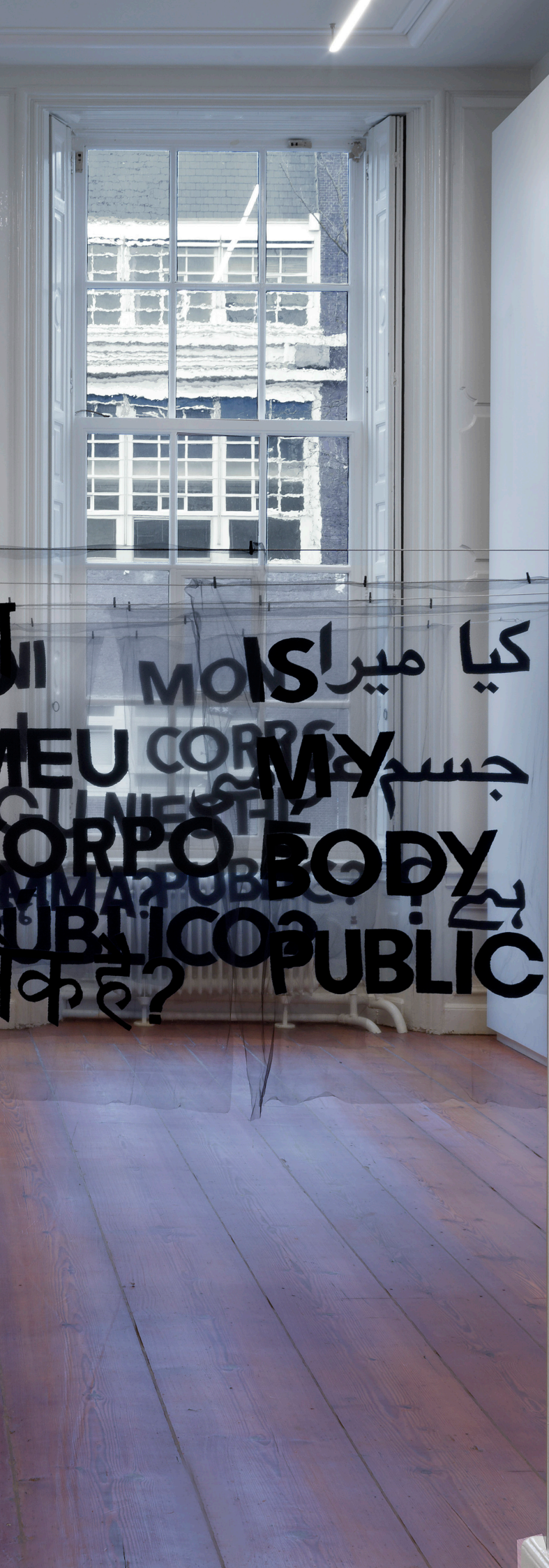
Black tulle, embroidered with black cotton thread

147 x 165 cm

Edition of 1 + 1 AP



私の身体は क्या मेरा
DENIM
HO U YA
CHAAM
OPENBAAR?
सार्वजनि



کیا میرا جسم ہے؟
MOI

MEU CORP
CORPO BODY
PUBLICO

CORPO BODY
PUBLICO
PUBLIC
ہے؟







**UPSTREAM
GALLERY**

Kloveniersburgwal 95
1011 KB Amsterdam

t. +31 (0)20 4284284
e. info@upstreamgallery.nl

The prices appearing in this list are valid, but may be subject to errors,
ommissions or printing mistakes.