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Museum Life of Contemporary Art
Professor Wharton
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Joan Jonas - Vertical Roll Floorplans

Organic Honey's Vertical Roll
1973-99, 15 min, b&w, sound

1. Mirror Check (naked) -- (0:00 - 2:00)

Description:

One female performer stands naked in the center of the room, holding a small hand mirror. She proceed to "check" or scan her entire body with it, starting with her arms, then moving down and around her torso and then working her way down each leg.

Props:

- Small hand mirror

2. Organic Honey

a. Dog drawing (wall) -- (5:12 - 5:59)

Description:

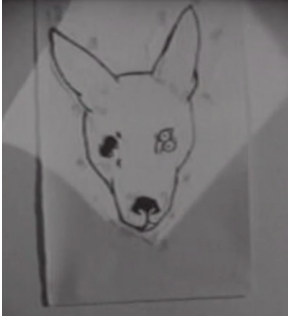
Organic Honey, wearing a dress, a feathered headdress on her head, a mask on her face and carrying a fan is slowly swaying in front of a rectangular piece of brown paper stuck to the wall. She puts down the fan and picks up a medium sized square broken piece of mirror which she then uses to play with and cast the light reflection onto the paper. She then rips off the piece of paper to reveal a drawing of a dog stuck on the wall underneath, and she continues to cast the light reflection onto the dog drawing.

In front of the drawing, she removes the feathered headdress, leaning against wall under the dog's face.

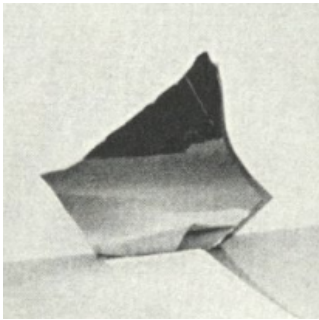
Props:



- Feathered Headdress
- Mask
- Fan



- Dog Drawing



- Medium sized square broken piece of mirror

b. Jar of Water -- (7:24 - 8:22)

Description:

Kneeling down besides the water jar, Organic Honey puts on the headdress and the mask, then tries to land thirty-six pennies, one by one, in a shot glass in the jar filled with water.

Props:



- Jar of water with a shot glass inside

c. Dog drawing (floor) -- 8:28 - 10:31 (Yiyang)

Description:

After removing the headdress, Organic Honey slips back her mask to wear it like a hat. Then she turns on the small monitor on the floor to show vertical roll on it, and the light attached to the tripod nearby was turned on too by the cameraman.

Sitting on floor under the camera, she puts a sheet of dog-shaped paper on the larger paper, and starts to draw dog's head with them, the top half on the bottom of the paper, the bottom half on top.

Props:



- Small monitor on the floor



- Dog shaped paper and paper used for drawing

d. Mirror spoon -- (10:32 - 11:20)

Description:

Honey removes drawing, revealing a mirror. With a large silver spoon she bangs it methodically.

Props:



- large silver spoon

3. Photo/Mirror -- (11:56 - 12:20)

Description:

OH is standing in front of a floor length mirror in her black dress holding a picture of her wearing the mask. Then she drops the picture and turns her head from left to right, staring into the mirror, then staring into the camera, etc...

(This moment is described differently and appears at different points of the performance in the script versus in the video. We have added it in our timeline following the video and thus the timestamp and the description matches the Castelli video. Additionally, we are unable to place OH's location in this part of the performance - where she is in the room, or if she is in a backroom - since the full length mirror does not appear in any other of the shots of the performance. We have therefore decided to abstain from creating a floorplan for this section, until we have further information.)

Props:



- Picture



- Full length mirror

4. Jumping (Sparkly bra) -- (12:25 - 13:20)

Description:

In middle of space Jonas stands, moving her legs very slowly, bending. Jonas jumps up and down as high as possible. She falls to the floor and claps her hands—one palm facing up, the other down, but not connecting.

Jonas stands, holding a quilted black satin jacket covered with fans, and drops it in front of the camera. She makes a slow turn, arms outstretched, holding very still.

Props:



- black satin jacket

5. Drawing on the Chalkboard -- (13:35 - 14:15)

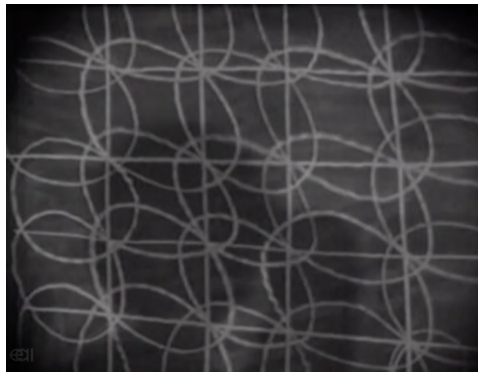
Description:

Wearing fan jacket, Jonas goes to the blackboard and makes an “endless drawing”, a continuous line, never lifting the chalk.

Props:



- Chalkboard

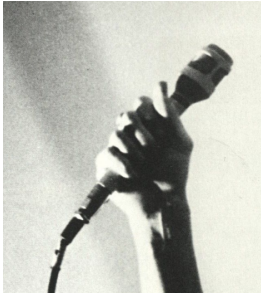


6. Black dress singing -- (14:18 -- 14:30)

Description:

Dressed in a black satin dress, one female performer (Jonas) stands against the back wall and howls like a wolf into a microphone (the howling sounds overlap with feedback).

Props:



- Microphone

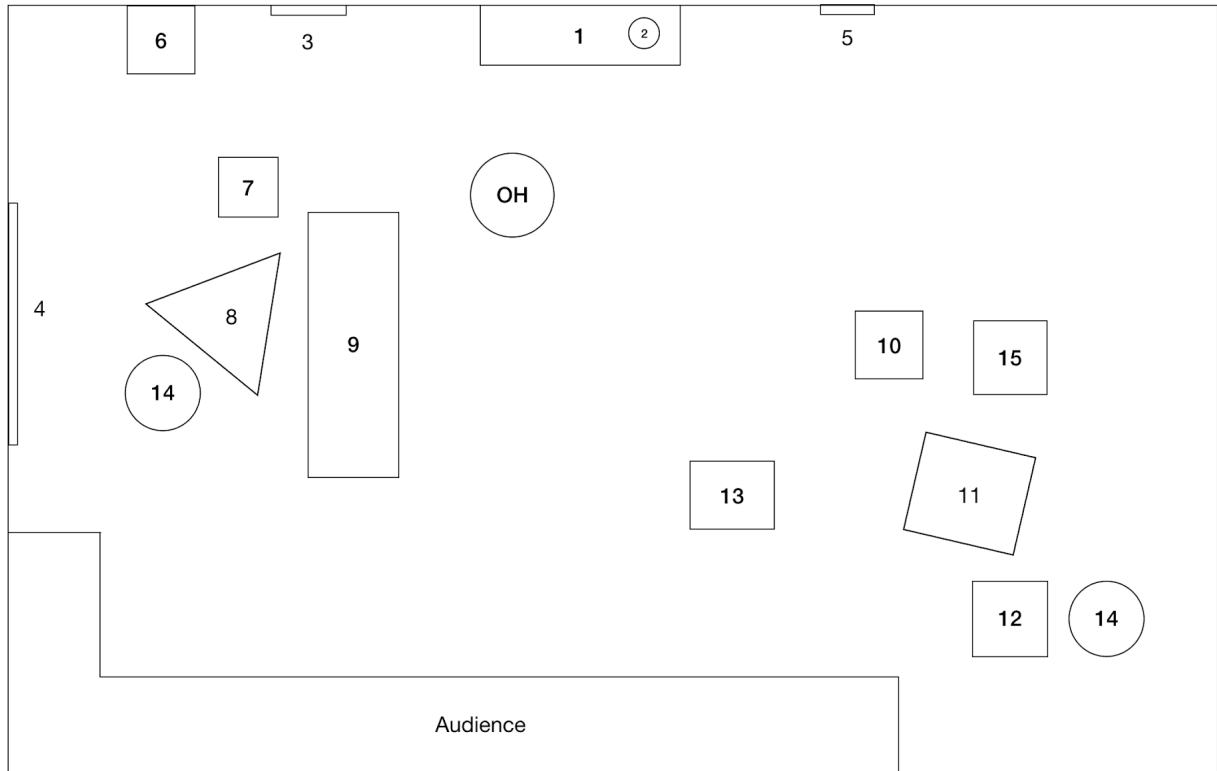
Props Checklist:

1. Low bench
2. Jar of water
3. Dog Drawing
4. Chalkboard
5. Selfie/Photo on the wall
6. Pedestal
7. Small monitor on the floor
8. Tripod/camera/light
9. Paper/mirror on the floor
10. Light
11. Large monitor (on pedestal)
12. Camera
13. Paper (?) on floor
14. Cameraman
15. Pillar
16. Small hand mirror
17. Feathered headdress
18. Mask
19. Fan
20. Medium sized square broken piece of mirror
21. Microphone
22. Large silver spoon
23. Black satin jacket
24. Picture of Organic Honey
25. Full length mirror

Floor Plan:

Floor Plan

Joan Jonas, *Vertical Roll*, 1972



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|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Low bench | 6. Pedestal | 11. Large monitor (on pedestal) |
| 2. Jar of water | 7. Small monitor on the floor | 12. Camera |
| 3. Dog Drawing | 8. Tripod/camera/light | 13. Paper (?) on floor |
| 4. Chalkboard | 9. Paper/mirror on the floor | 14. Cameraman |
| 5. Selfie/Photo on the wall | 10. Light | 15. Pillar |

Note: The specific floor plans for each individual section of the performance are all compiled into one PDF file accompanying this document.