

Exhibitions

11 Uneasy Questions Raised by Manifesta 11

Where is the art? Who is it for? And can there be too many masturbation paintings?

Hettie Judah, June 13, 2016

9. What does the job of “artist” entail?

As per Man Ray, the artist’s role has long entailed a degree of self-promotion. Georgia Sagri questioned what could and should be expected of her in her role as “artist” when approached by Manifesta to participate in their documentary project. First she proposed billing the biennial by the hour as an actress for the filming. Then, that if she were not being hired as a performer, but filmed as an artist, she be afforded complete creative control of the process. Sagri presented this correspondence and a related film as part of the parallel program, and in a performance lecture alongside her work *Documentary of Behavioural Currencies*.



John Kessler for Manifesta 11. Courtesy of Manifesta 11 ©Wolfgang Traeger

10. What do people do for no money?

Sagri also questioned the idea that a profession had primacy in bestowing identity over the aspects of life that are done for no money. Such as, for example: mothering, caring, making art, or volunteering to work at a biennial. The question of remuneration is a pointed topic for all of us working in the creative arts (or, as we are now known, “content providers”) though not one widely explored in the commissions.