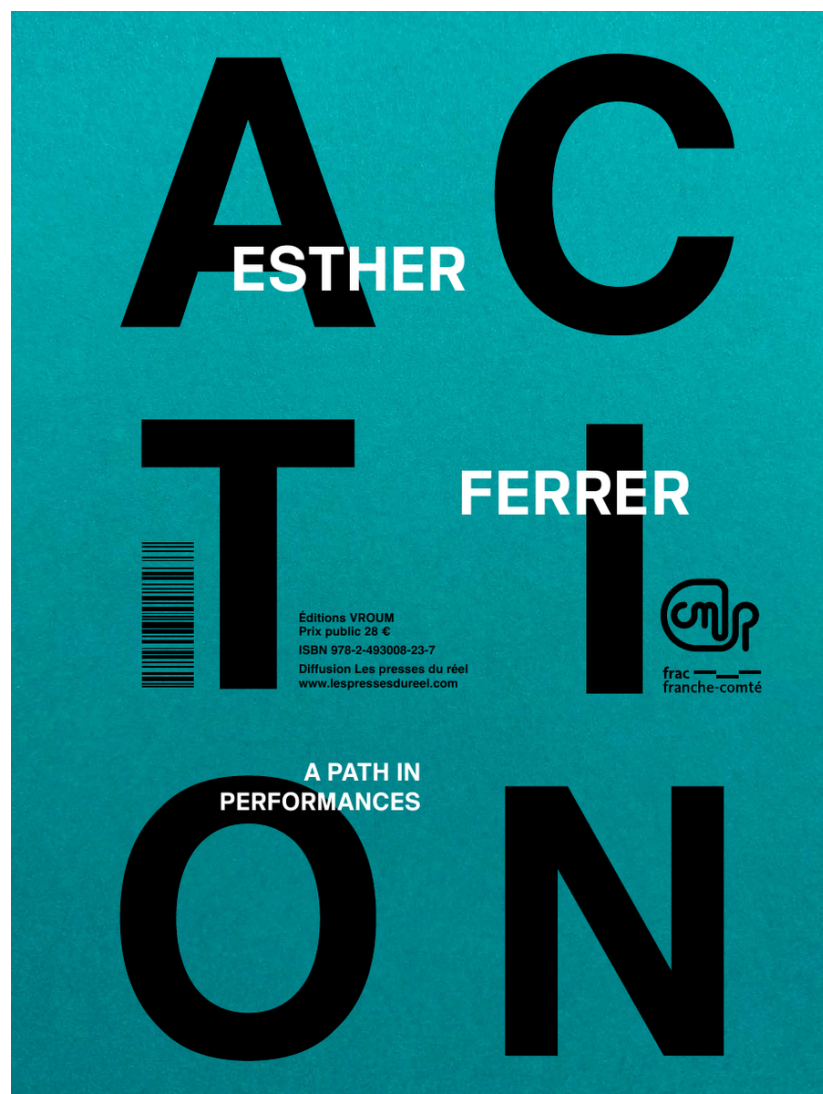


ACTION ! A PATH IN PERFORMANCES

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Artist Esther Ferrer

Interview Frédéric Dumond

Foreword Sylvie Zavatta

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ACTION ! A PATH IN PERFORMANCES

SUMMARY

ACTION ! A Path in Performances brings together a collection of Esther Ferrer's performance scores and a lengthy interview with the artist conducted by Frédéric Dumond.

Conceived in close collaboration with Esther Ferrer, the book presents her scores as autonomous texts, without images. They thus appear in their most direct form: open structures for action, to be activated, interpreted and reinvented by anyone.

In dialogue with the interview, these scores reveal the questions that run through her work: the body, time, language, freedom, simplicity, transmission, feminism and the possibility of an art inseparable from life.

At once a collection of scores, an interview book and a tool for transmission, ACTION ! invites us not so much to contemplate a work as to understand it, extend it and, potentially, reactivate it.

EXCERPT

"THE FEAR CHOIR"

This choir is made up of 61 performers: a soloist (who will sing) and 60 choristers (but the number of participants may be altered).

Any version is valid, but text and sequence must be respected.

At D's signal, the soloist will sing:

I'm scared

Immediately after, the first person in the front row says, sings or declaims:

So am I

Immediately after, the first person in the second row says, sings or declaims:

And so am I

The process continues in the same way until each chorister has intervened.

EXCERPT FROM THE INTERVIEW

f. Are you shaping something that has to do with freedom?

E. Listen, Frédéric, for me it's in the realm of art that we can be totally free. After that, you might succeed or you might not. Society might accept you or it might not; it might even put you in prison sometimes for what you do. But in your mind, you're free, and that's what interests me.

THE ARTIST

Born in 1937 in San Sebastián, Spain, Esther Ferrer holds degrees in social sciences and journalism. In 1967, she joined the Zaj group, founded in 1964 in Madrid by Ramón Barce, Juan Hidalgo, and Walter Marchetti.

Internationally known and acclaimed for her work as a visual artist and for her performances, she has developed since the 1960s a body of work deeply rooted in action art. From the 1970s onward, she devoted part of her work to the visual arts: reworked photographs, installations, objects, and series based on prime numbers.

In 1999, she was one of two artists representing Spain at the Venice Biennale. In 2008, she received the Premio Nacional de Artes Plásticas. In 2012, she was awarded the Gure Arte Prize; in 2014, the Velázquez Prize; and in 2022, the Bernard Heidsieck-Centre Pompidou Literary Prize.

Her work, grounded in experimentation, economy of means and freedom, makes the body, time and language materials for action.

THE PUBLISHER

VROUM

VROUM publishes performance scores, poems to recite aloud, non-dramatic theatre, scripts, and formal protocols to activate.

Great importance is given to graphic design. Each book has a unique, bespoke design, "outside any series" and "outside standard formats".

Directed by Garance Dor - artist and researcher - and Vincent Menu, graphic designer, Vroum has published the annual creative journal Véhicule since 2010, as well as books since 2020.

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