

The Museum of Modern Art

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NO. 66
FOR RELEASE:
AUGUST 1, 1973

KIDNAPPENING: An Artistic Adventure Created by Marta Minujin for Summergarden

Friday and Saturday nights, August 3 and 4, Argentinian avant-gardist Marta Minujin will take over the Sculpture Garden of The Museum of Modern Art from 8 to 10 p.m. as part of the free Summergarden program and turn it into a "visual environment created with people."

The Kidnapping, ^(sic) directed by Gary Glover, will be a visual adventure combining opera, poetry, and dance that will be demonstrated by 40 performers and taught to the audience. The performers' faces will be made up to resemble one of Picasso's cubist paintings.

Their repertoire of movements and gestures are derived from the poses of Greek sculpture and Romantic painting. Accompanying these stylized motions are poetic chants taken from the works of Blake, Mallarmé, Pound, Rimbaud, and quotes from artists speaking about art.

The audience will first gather for a party on the upper terrace of the garden. At 9 p.m. the performers will silently surround the public in the main garden. They will then walk through the assembled group, gesturing and chanting. After their demonstration, they will encourage audience participation, as this instruction is an integral part of the Kidnapping.

At the same time, 15 members of the audience, selected earlier, will be ushered into 15 waiting cars. Escorted by a performer with a painted face and a photographer to record each event, each "victim" will be driven to a different destination, including a Soho artist's loft, an Upper East Side apartment, a restaurant, a concert, following Ms. Minujin's plan for an "innocent adventure in creative activity." Unaware of what is in store, the "victims" will find themselves in unexpected situations chosen to contrast with their personalities and to inspire fresh responses.

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