

Artist Profile JHG Archive: Rebecca Horn



Still from: Touching the Walls
with both hands simultaneously, 1974/75



The exhibition at the John Hansard Gallery in 1983
was the first time Rebecca Horn's work was seen
in Great Britain.

Rebecca Horn was born in Germany in 1944.
She studied at the Academy of Fine Arts, Hamburg.
She first exhibited in 1972 at Documenta 5 in Germany.

Art forms: Performance / Sculpture / Kinetic installation / Photography / Video / Film /
Drawing / Text

Rebecca spent a long time in hospital as a young woman; she has said it was quite
lonely.

Her artwork is inspired by her experiences and often uses the body, gestures and
feelings. Her work extends the body by attaching sculptures to the head, shoulders
and the hands. The works sometimes connect people to each other or extends the
body out into a room, or a landscape.

The sculptural objects, the performance and the film or photographs all become part
of the art work.

In Rebecca's later art works she uses the body less and makes moving mechanical
devices (kinetic installations), but they are still about human feelings and gestures.

**'The finger gloves are light.
I can move them without any effort.
Feel, touch, grasp anything,
but keeping a certain distance from the objects...
I feel me touching, I see me grasping,
I control the distance between me and the objects.'**

Rebecca Horn, speaking about an artwork shown at John Hansard Gallery in 1983



Arm Extensions, 1968



Der Eintanzter, 1978

What could you make that allows you to:

feel

touch

grasp

...but keeping a certain distance from the objects?

Create your own extension to your body using clothing, paper, or household objects.

Film yourself, or someone else wearing your sculptural extensions.

How does it feel?

How easily you can touch, grasp or feel?

How is it different to touching with your body?

What is missing?