

MARIA HASSABI

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Before there was Dia:Beacon, the art world cognoscenti made pilgrimages to Marfa, Texas to lay eyes on the perfect wonder of Donald Judd. This minimalist pioneer went to Marfa in 1971 creating a home which multiplied into a ranch which later annexed the land and buildings of an old army base—all eventually dedicated to showcasing his sculptures to his exacting standards, as well as exhibiting the work of other like-minded contemporaries. Here, he created in essence the ideal permanent galleries for his ideal art installations. Since then, more and more art has followed, bringing a cultural oasis to this desert town. Among the galleries, museums, lights, and sights is now Marfa Ballroom, a space dedicated to presenting music, film, and visual art since 2003. For the Ballroom's first dance production, Maria Hassabi was invited to premiere her new work GLORIA in May of 2007. Created in collaboration with performers Hristoula Harakas and David Adamo, Levasseur, and visual artist Jody E Iff, lighting designer Joe Scott Lyall, GLORIA was composed by layering three individual solos. Each solo was developed separately, and joined together. As a result, they inhabit a space of quiet stillness and isolation in which the body is viewed as sculpture, dead and alive at the same time. Moving between one iconic posture and another, the dancers invoke a set of fleeting images within their abstract, mobile diagram. GLORIA's rhythm stretches time across an optical field of perception, allowing each audience member to recall their own references and fantasies.



MARFA IS BEAUTIFUL

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