



**Irena Haiduk**  
***REMASTER***  
**January 17-March 22, 2020**

Swiss Institute is delighted to present *REMASTER*, the first institutional solo exhibition in New York by Irena Haiduk. *REMASTER* is an iteration of the artist's ongoing cinematic adaptation of Mikhail Bulgakov's novel, *The Master and Margarita* (written 1928-40). Her project is guided by one of the central principles offered by the novel: the existing infrastructure of this world must be used to create a new one. Since 2008, Haiduk's exhibitions have doubled as filmmaking studios for *REMASTER*. Here, the made world becomes a cast of living things, full of agency and the desire to act upon their surroundings. In anticipation of the next phase of this project, two levels of SI have been transformed into scenes from Bulgakov's novel: the Variety Theater on the ground floor and Apartment 50 on the second floor.

Mikhail Bulgakov (b. 1891 in Kiev, d. 1940 in Moscow) called *The Master and Margarita* his "sunset novel," and it was left unfinished at the time of his death. One of its main protagonists is a majestic and strangely benevolent Satan figure named Woland, who arrives in Soviet Moscow describing himself as "an artiste," "a professor," and "a consultant," and quickly reveals a politically darkening world unto itself. The novel valorizes examples of courage and love, however messily they appear, and is unsparing towards cowardice, seeking to reattach consequences to actions.

Haiduk's scenography for *REMASTER* is infused with her own distinctive aesthetics. Glittering surfaces, velvet furnishings, bright flowers, and shifting light conditions create a seductive environment containing fragments of spells and hidden designs. The sound of a cat's purr reverberates around the galleries with both comfort and threat.

The theater space on the ground floor draws on the Balkan cabaret tradition, and in line with the conspiratorial spirit of this underground commons, 500 keys to its locked entrance will be distributed during a ceremony at *REMASTER*'s opening reception on January 16. Inside the theater, a program renders a film without images. Entitled *Lunar Interval VI* (2020), it features Woland's black magic act, which sets the stakes for a life without imagination.

The second floor conjures the apartment where the heroine, Margarita, and Woland enter into a transaction to save the life of Master, the novel's archetypal artist. Prior to the conclusion of Haiduk's exhibition, inside this precisely furnished place, two new scenes will be recorded before a live audience.

On several evenings, *REMASTER* plays host to collaborative performances, cabaret nights, musical events and improvisations. In this way, the exhibition can also be considered as a studio where new work is made.

## Events

January 16, 7PM

Opening Event | *Key Issue Ceremony* with Jovana Stokic and more

January 31, 7PM

Conversation | *Shadows Cast by Things and People: A Candlelit Talk* with Irena Haiduk and Laura McLean-Ferris

February 6, 7PM

Conversation and Beautification | *Models* with Amanda Googe, Irena Haiduk, Monika Szewczyk

February 13 & 14, 8PM

Performance | *Cabaret Économique* with Irena Haiduk, Dean Kissick, Christian Schmitz and more

March 20, 7PM

Recording Session | *Apartment 50* with Saim Demircan, Darby English, Vladimir Ivkovic, Marija Karan, Thomas Love, Olivia Roper-Caldbeck, Anna Shteynshleyger and more

March 22, 8PM

Closing Performance | *Cabaret Économique* with Saim Demircan, Irena Haiduk, Vladimir Ivkovic, Dean Kissick, and more

On the occasion of *REMASTER*, Irena Haiduk and Johanna Rietveld have arranged the windows at Printed Matter / St. Marks. The store now carries the publications *Bon Ton Mais Non*, *Spells* and *Seductive Exacting Realism by Marcel Proust 12*, along with other flexibly priced Yugoexport items.

Irena Haiduk: *REMASTER* is made possible in part with generous support from Balkan Projects. Elements from *Lunar Interval VI* were produced in collaboration with TANK Shanghai, where *REMASTER* will be presented in March 2020. Irena Haiduk wishes to thank Lidija Delić, Frank Martin, Max Mayer, Till Wiedeck and Raphael Zollinger.

This exhibition is organized by Laura McLean-Ferris, Chief Curator, with Alison Coplan, Curator.

## About Irena Haiduk

Irena Haiduk (b. Belgrade, 1982). For full biographical information, please see: <https://yugoexport.com/files/BIOGRAPHY.pdf>.

## About Swiss Institute

Founded in 1986, SI is an independent non-profit contemporary art institution dedicated to promoting forward-thinking and experimental art making through innovative exhibitions and programs. Committed to the highest standards of curatorial and educational excellence, SI serves as a platform for emerging artists, catalyzes new contexts for celebrated work, and fosters appreciation for under-recognized positions. Open to the public free-of-charge, SI seeks to explore how a national perspective can foster international conversations in the fields of visual and performing arts, design and architecture.

SI Programming is made possible in part with public funds from Pro Helvetia, Swiss Arts Council; the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council. Main sponsors include LUMA Foundation, the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and Friends of SI. SI gratefully acknowledges Swiss Re as SI ONSITE Partner, Vitra as Design Partner, Crozier Fine Arts as Preferred Shipping Art Logistics Partner, Sister City as Hotel Sponsor and SWISS as Travel Partner.

Press Contact:  
press@swissinstitute.net  
212.925.2035

# SI

## Irena Haiduk: *REMASTER* January 17 – March 22, 2020

### Ground Floor

1. *Portal Number 1*, 2020  
Steel, lock, 500 brass keys

2. *Lunar Interval VI: Preview, Fanfare, Program*, 2009-2019  
2K video with 4-channel sound, the audience incorporates the following voices: The Renaissance Society patrons and Benefit attendees, 2018; Swiss Institute, *Lunar Interval VI* audience, 2018; Hamburger Bahnhof, *Cabaret Économique* audience, 2019; Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, *The Summit* audience, 2008  
22 minutes

3. *Variety Theater*, 2020  
Inox, *T.V.*, rebound foam, plywood, paint, botanical matter, sunset and moonlight conditions

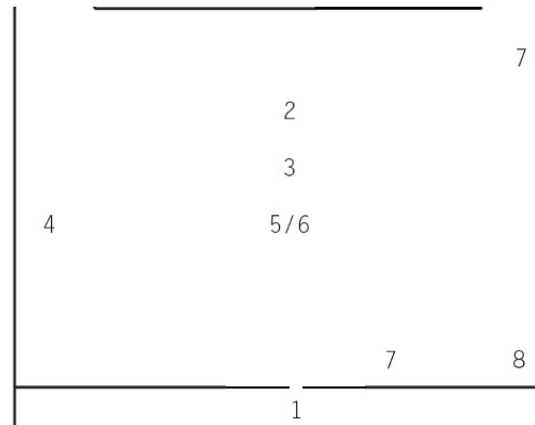
4. *T.V.*, 2017  
Polyester print, beading

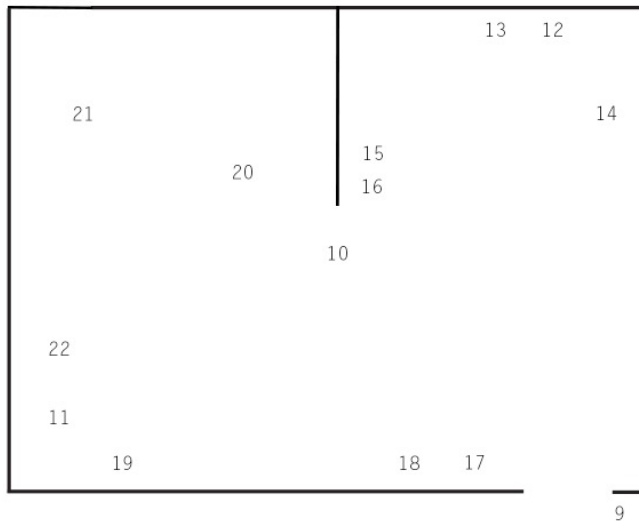
5. *Voice Base*, 2009-ongoing  
Inox, botanical matter

6. *Second Base*, 2017-ongoing  
Inox perch for a bird of prey

7. *By Candlelight*, 2019  
Inox, candles, fire

8. *Corner Vase*, 2019  
Inox, botanical matter





## 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

9. *Apartment No. 50*, 2019  
Inox

10. *REMASTER Credits*, 2019  
Stereo sound  
1 hour

11. *Lighting Conditions*, 2020  
Illuminarc moonlight, paint,  
reflective surfaces, venetian blinds

12. *By Candlelight*, 2019  
Inox, candles, fire

13. *Waiting Object 1*, 2016-ongoing  
*Lupina* chair by Stol Kamnik:  
upholstery, laminate, iron

14. *Hela Reading*, 2020  
Velvet mattress, plywood bed, *Complete Works of Marcel Proust 13*, leisure suit, fiberglass, latex

15. *Magi Listens*, 2020  
Gold, gloss, pearls, silicone,  
drywall, paint

16. *Waiting Object 2*, 2016-ongoing  
*Lupina* chair by Stol Kamnik:  
upholstery, laminate, iron

17. Jill Mulleady, *Poodle*, 2020  
Oil on canvas  
Courtesy of the artist

18. *Waiting Object 31*, 2016-ongoing  
*Lupina* chair by Stol Kamnik:  
upholstery, laminate, iron

19. *Models, documenta 14: Transactional Area (World)*  
Inox, acrylic

20. *Models, documenta 14: Waiting Room (World)*  
Inox, acrylic

21. *Models, documenta 14: Blind Room (World)*  
Inox, acrylic

22. *Waiting Object 33*, 2016-ongoing  
*Lupina* chair by Stol Kamnik:  
upholstery, laminate, iron

*Vessel 3*, 2016  
Ceramic

Produced by Swiss Institute and Yugoexport.