

Maria Hassabi  
"PLASTIC"  
MoMA  
21.2. – 20.3.2016

Installation view "PLASTIC"  
Performer Hristoula Harakas



At first glance the body splayed on the steps at MoMA seemed still, but it was then revealed to be moving at a slow creep. On the mezzanine level, several more figures were sprawled, lounged, posed, and crouched. Their uniforms were unassumingly workwear-like: gray denim shirts and matching jeans, with a flourish of rhinestones on the thigh. Maria Hassabi's choreography, which has been shown in both theaters and exhibition spaces, has developed a way of presenting bodies as something closer to static objects. Her recent works interminably extend the duration of a movement. It's as though the space around each dancer is thick and slow. What is actually most disturbing about the show at MoMA is how this state of "semi-life" seems perfectly suited to a museum space, suggesting that the closer a body is to a static, non-threatening object, the easier it fits.