# Award of the Kulturstiftung Sparkasse Unna 2012/2013
## „Art and Language"

## Awardee: Nadja Verena Marcin

Testimony of the Jury:

In the photographic, video and performance work of Nadja Verena Marcin, language plays an integral role. In Marcin's filmic video pieces, the actors of the scenarios speak in unusual and sometimes extraordinary ways to each other. In her live performance work, the artist also uses spoken word as a central element and means of expression. Ultimately, however, the purpose of this is never to describe or convey a linear story; storytelling is a function of the imagistic and symbolic actions of the performer. It is, rather, through language and text that Marcin brings to our conscience the habitual, humorous and at times shockingly cliché patterns of language and action. In this way, she deconstructs and undermines prevailing stereotypes embodied in the usage of language and shows how signification and certainty of meaning are predefined socially or politically.

The scenarios of Marcin's work sometimes fall back on strangely familiar cinematic sequences of action, re-staging known topoi from art and film history. However, the roots of her intention do not lie in quotation for its own sake, but in revealing in these images latent ambiguities and contradictions. Familiar images and texts, and the content or meaning associated with them, are being magnified and brought to reflection. What the viewer might at first perceive as a strange or exaggerated scenario initiates an aesthetic experience that enlightens our knowledge and expands our horizons.

Marcin knows the cultural and historical roots of her work and selected imagery, and is aware of its social and political implications. She makes the poetic, subversive, eye-opening force of this text and language an integral part of her work. The jury members were in full agreement that the work of Nadja Verena Marcin should be awarded the scholarship of the Cultural Foundation of the Sparkasse Unna 2012 / 2013.

On behalf of the jury

Peter Friese