

**Artist Kris Lemsalu On Being Stuck In
A Turtle Shell At Frieze New York**

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From the looks of it, performance art looks pretty painful. Marina Abramović and her then-partner Ulay each walked about 1,553 miles along the

Great Wall of China to meet and say goodbye when they ended their relationship. Tehching (Sam) Hsieh and Linda Montano spent one year connected by an eight-foot rope in the same room. Over at the Frieze New York art fair on Randall's Island this weekend, you can watch Estonian artist Kris Lemsalu lay under an enormous ceramic turtle shell sculpture adorned with swirls giant rhinestones she created at Temnikova & Kasela Gallery's booth. For stretches of time up to four hours, Lemsalu will do her performance for viewers to gawk at in wonder. I quizzed her about the experience, which is part of the Frieze Frame program, as she emerged from the shell three-and-a-half hours after she entered it during the opening day of Frieze New York.



Artist Kris Lemsalu at Temnikova & Kasela Gallery's Frieze Booth

How are you feeling right now?

I'm a bit dizzy, to put it mildly.

How did you come up with the idea for this?

It's not the first time that I inhabit my sculptures. I do it the past two years. It's like somehow a personal contribution to the work.

How does it feel when you're in there?

Usually I listen to music and I try to get in to some sort of my own space and time and kind of...today it was a little bit cold on the waterbed, so it was a little bit harder, but after one hour it gets quite in a meditation zone.

What kind of music do you listen to?

Usually I listen to a lot of hip-hop.

Like...?

Madlib (smiling). I was listening to Madlib.

So do you have an iPod in there?

Yes.

What do you do if you need to go to the bathroom or if you're thirsty?

I mean this is something I practice. First, I wanted to get a pair of diapers, but we didn't manage to go to the pharmacy. I would have peed in my pants, but I don't mind this at all.

Will you have diapers tomorrow?

Maybe.

What do you have to do to prepare for such a thing?

I just need to be calm and...I don't really prepare. I prepare in my head.

Is the shell heavy?

Yeah, it's really heavy. It's like 100 kilos or something like that.

Why did you put the wig at the head?

It's just for protection. I don't want people seeing my face. I just want to have my own space there and privacy.

Have you heard anything strange?

I don't hear anything. I'm just listening to my music.

So you're totally in your own zone.

Yeah, if I would listen to people and conversations it would just get so exhausting, I would get involved with this, and I'd rather keep it to myself with my music and my space.

What will you do next?

Now I will take a break, eat something, smoke a cigarette, and then I go back in.

Frieze New York runs through May 17.