



# Lest We Forget: Performance Art as a Means of Communication with the Public

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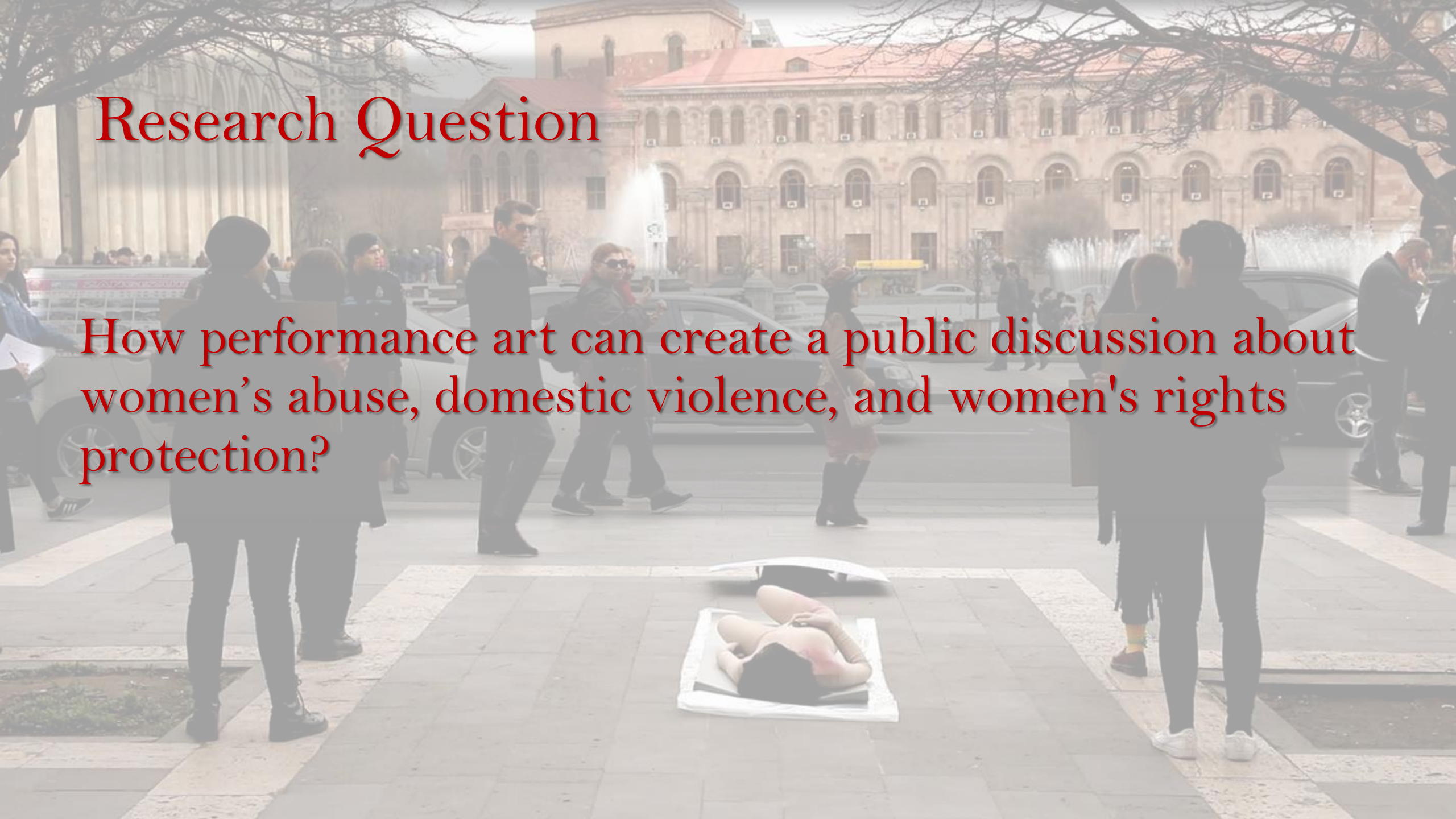
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# Research Question

How performance art can create a public discussion about women's abuse, domestic violence, and women's rights protection?



# Methodology

- Public Performance in Republic Square
- Embodiment of Christine Iskandaryan who became a victim of domestic violence: killed by her husband
- Recorded people's reactions of the scene as they were passing by the body
- Expert Interviews on domestic violence and on the means of its prevention



# Research Findings

## The Public Reaction results on the Public Performance

40% curiosity

26% ignorance

12% understanding

22% other (pity, aggression, surprise, etc...)



# Research Findings

## Expert Interviews

- Public events contribute to raising awareness of domestic violence and other women's issues
- There is a serious lack in the Armenian educational system in human rights and sex education
- Local NGO's and human rights organizations are working on developing programs in raising awareness of women's rights and domestic violence

# Research Findings

A photograph of a woman lying on her back on a sidewalk in front of a large, classical-style building with arches and columns. She is wearing a light-colored, long-sleeved top and dark pants. In the background, several other people are standing, some holding white signs. The scene appears to be a public demonstration or protest.

- “Women’s Resource Center” founded by Lara Aharonian is one of the local organizations specialized in women’s rights protection and education on women’s rights
- “FemLibrary” founded by Arpi Balian and Anna Nikoghosyan is a newly established library of feminist and queer literature.
- Due to the growth of the activity on women’s issues and women’s rights, the number of women calling for help increases yearly

# Conclusion

- Public events such as public performances are one of the most effective ways of reaching people and raising awareness about women issues in the short-term periods
- Only raising awareness is not enough to reduce violence cases against women; the educational system overall needs to be included in the process for visible changes to occur in the long term

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