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Visit a beauty parlour and a couple's bedroom in Marta Minujín's first UK solo exhibition at Tate Liverpool

The art work aims to stimulate the five senses and is inspired by street life in Buenos Aires

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By **Laura Davis** Special Projects & Arts Editor
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Portrait of Marta Minujín (Image: © Marta Minujín. Photo: Adam Jones. © Marta Minujín Archives)

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A labyrinth inspired by Buenos Aires street life is being presented as Tate Liverpool's autumn 2020 exhibition.

The work by Argentine artist Marta Minujín will be her first UK solo show and only the third time it has been exhibited since its creation in 1965.

La Menesunda was one of the first immersive art experiences created in global art history and aims to stimulate the five senses.

The work, co-created with fellow artist Rubén Santantonín, was radical at the time it was first shown, not only anticipating the current significance of mass media and popular culture but also the 1990s shift of viewers of art from outsiders to participants.

Helen Legg, Tate Liverpool director, said: "Marta Minujín has been a pioneer throughout her career and her thoughtful, experimental and provocative work deserves to be seen more widely in the UK.

"So it is with great pride that Tate Liverpool brings La Menesunda, one of Marta's most iconic works, to the city. I'm sure visitors will enjoy the wit and freedom of expression that the installation exudes."

The title La Menesunda is slang for 'mayhem' and is inspired by street life in Buenos Aires. The labyrinthine work takes visitors on a journey through 11 distinct spaces, including a tunnel of luminous neon sign, and rooms populated with performers, such as a bedroom with a couple in bed, and a beauty salon.



📍 Marta Minujín, *Menesunda Reloaded* at New Museum, New York 2019 (Image: © Marta Minujin. Photo: Sol Navedo para AXP. © Marta

Minujín's artworks often evolve over time and Tate's curators, working alongside the artist and Museo de Arte Moderno de Buenos Aires, will create a restructured version for the show in Liverpool. It will be accompanied by an archival display and films documenting Minujín's career from 1960 to the present day.

Having emerged as one of the strongest voices in Latin American art, she developed happenings, performances, installations and video works that have questioned the definitions of art with an unprecedented freedom.



 **The artist Marta Minujín in Menesunda Reloaded New Museum, New York 2019** (Image: © Marta Minujín. Photo: Sol Navedo para AXP. ©

Marta Minujín Archives)

Early in her career, Minujín worked in Paris alongside artists associated with Argentina's Nouveau Réalisme before moving to New York where she collaborated with institutions such as the Guggenheim and MoMA, as well as artist run organisations including E.A.T. and artists such as Allan Kaprow and Andy Warhol.

She created one of her best known works to coincide with the fall of Argentina's military dictatorship in 1983. A structure built out of banned books, the Parthenon of Books was erected in the middle of a Buenos Aires street and was later recreated on a Nazi book-burning site in Kassel, Germany.