

Marilyn Arsem

American, born 1951

Lives in Boston

***With the Others*, 2013**

Durational performance

12-6:30pm

As a performance artist, Arsem uses her own body as a primary material. She was drawn to the Egyptian galleries as the only spaces in the museum that contain other human bodies. In this work, Arsem considers life and death, ephemerality and eternity. *With the Others* occupies a liminal space between visibility and concealment. Arsem edges her way into gallery without disturbing normal visitor circulation or the objects' arrangements, yet her presence as a living, breathing body alters the space. The smell of jasmine softly emanates, referencing both ancient burial practices and the contemporary Egyptian street culture of flower vendors. Through smell, and the insertion of a living presence, though barely evident, Arsem activates senses exclusively available to performance art.

Courtesy of The Contemporaries.