

Robert Kushner

Persian Line: II, 1976

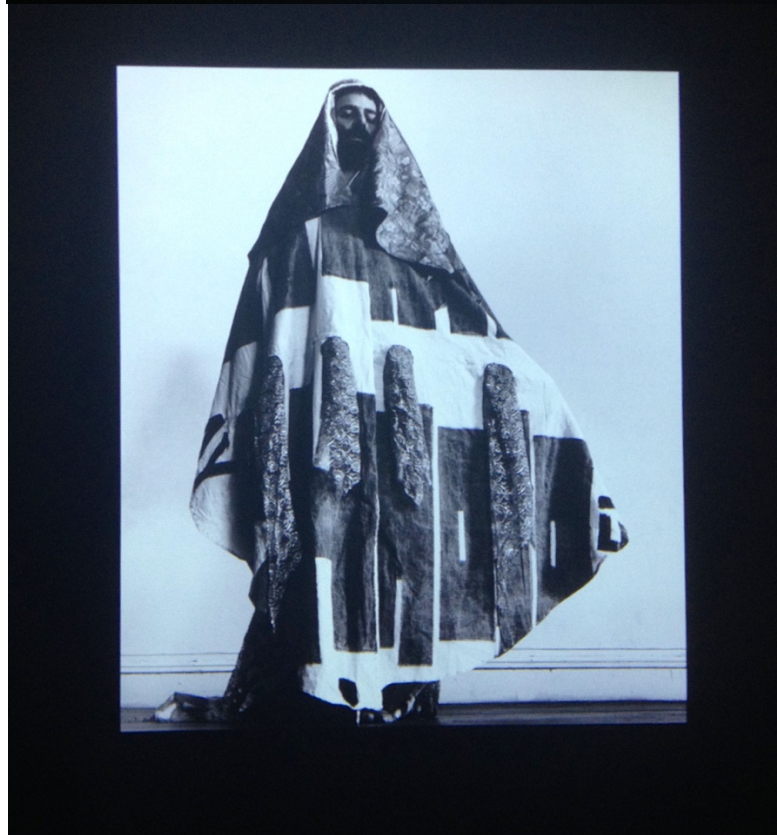
The Robert Kushner video shown here was taped in 1976 at the Holly Solomon Gallery in New York. It is one of the artist's many staged, irreverent performances that wittily explore textiles, paint, costume design, the ideas of high art and low art, as well as assumptions about gender distinctions, through the medium of "The Fashion Show." Narrated by Herb Bronstein, performers, including the artist, wear 55 fabric garments, inspired by the traditional full-length Chador worn by Persian women as well as decorative motifs by Matisse and Middle Eastern textiles. As the models walk the adornments billow out dramatically. What was covered becomes revealed. Before and after the performance the fabrics were exhibited on the gallery walls as formal objects. When on the wall, these objects functioned as two-dimensional paintings, and when worn as costumes they became three-dimensional sculpture.

In addition to *Persian Line II*, from 1970 to 1982, Robert Kushner spent time making body sculpture, called "costumes." Some were constructed of fresh food sewn to itself, or attached to crocheted garments of his own constructions, as well as repurposed garments, non-art/non-garment materials, perishables, and found objects. The costumes were presented in public performances. These pageants, fashion shows, and tableaux vivants were performed at various institutions and festivals such as The Museum of Modern Art, The Berliner Festwoche, The Vienna Performance Festival, The Kitchen, The Clocktower, The Philadelphia Institute of Contemporary Art, and as well as many galleries and other museums.



Video still from *Persian Line II* (1976)

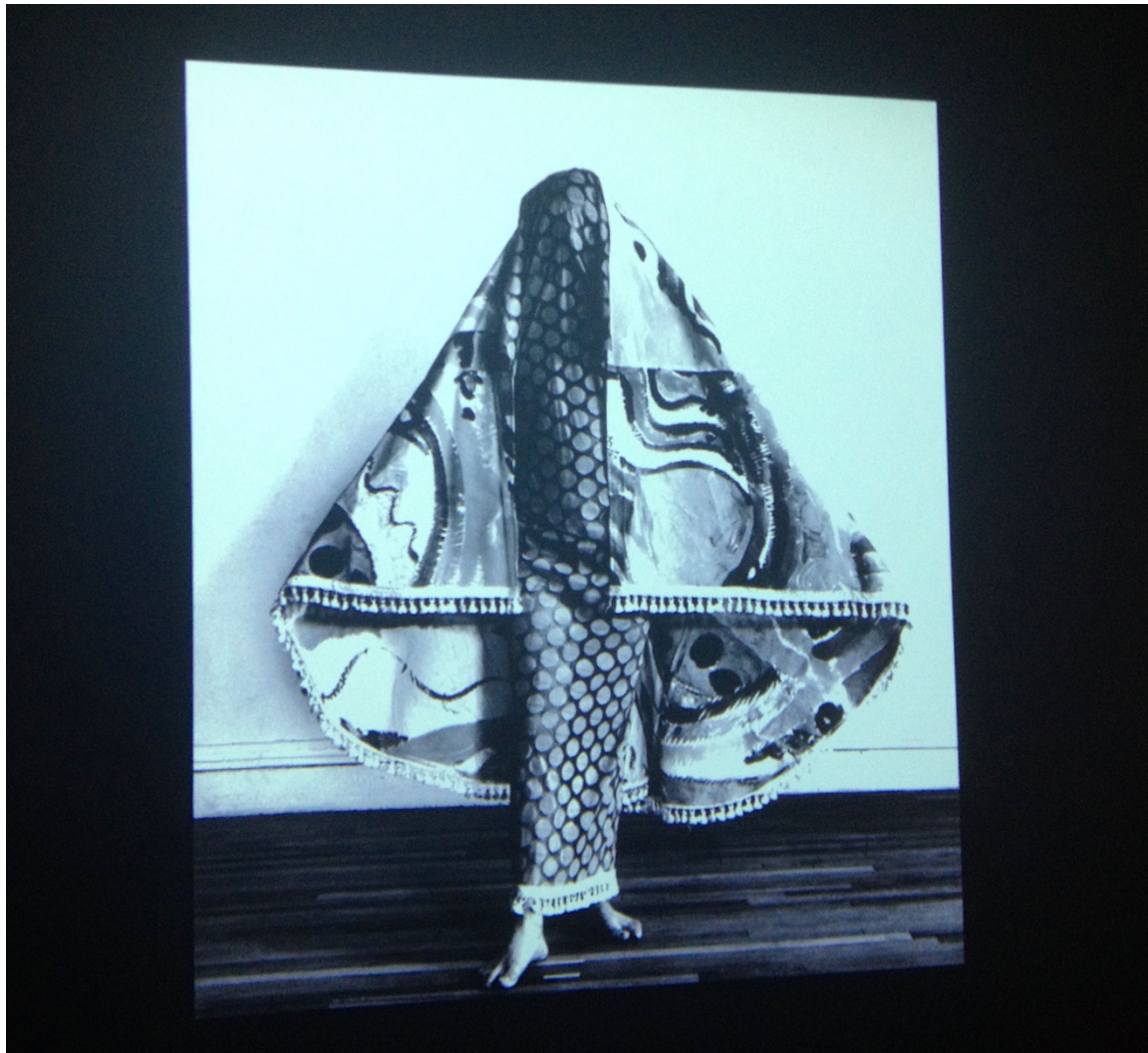
Photos from *Persian Line II* were recently exhibited at the Centre Pompidou in *Shunk-Kender. Art in the Eye of the Camera (1957-1983)*.



Video stills from *Persian Line II* (1976)



Video stills from *Persian Line II* (1976)



Video still from *Persian Line II* (1976)