

 **PERFORMA 13**

NEW VISUAL ART PERFORMANCE



ANNOUNCING HIGHLIGHTS OF PERFORMA 13 PREMIERES AND PROJECTS

August 23, 2013

New York City, NY – Performa is pleased to announce the first highlights of the Performa Premieres and Projects for the upcoming visual art performance biennial Performa 13 (November 1-24, 2013) in New York City. The Premieres and Projects join the Performa Commissions to create a vibrant lineup of some of the most innovative artists of our time. Artists to present work as Performa Premieres include Jérôme Bel & Theater Hora, Joan Jonas, Maria Hassabi, Cally Spooner, and Pieter Ampe & Guilherme Garrido. Additional artists for the Performa Projects include Pete Drungle, Noé Soulier, *Man with a Projector*, Akademia Ruchu, and Bedwyr Williams.

As America's first and only biennial in all disciplines, the Performa biennial has become one of the most anticipated events on the international art calendar. Once again, Performa will present new work by a range of artists working in visual art, dance, music, film, radio, and food. Performa 13 will extend beyond Manhattan, featuring performances and events in Queens, The Bronx, and Brooklyn. These Premieres and Projects are made possible through Biennial Consortium partnerships, including Roulette, Martha Graham Studios, The Kitchen, Times Square Alliance, The Martin E. Segal Center of the Graduate Center CUNY, and the Polish Cultural Institute New York.

PERFORMA PREMIERES

The Performa Premieres program, launched in 2009 with artists including Tacita Dean and William Kentridge, presents exceptional live work that has never been seen in New York City. Working closely with each artist, Performa finds the perfect venue and presenting partner for every project, tailoring it especially for the unique context of this city.

Jérôme Bel & Theater Hora

Co-presented with New York Live Arts

Disabled Theater is a powerful performance by critically acclaimed French choreographer Jérôme Bel in collaboration with Theater HORA, a Zurich-based theater company of professional actors with learning disabilities. An extension of Bel's sensitive portraits of dancers that reveal the intertwinement of professional careers and personal lives, the performance offers a rare glimpse at lives laid bare on the stage in a manner that is both compassionate and vulnerable. During the performance eleven actors, between the ages of 18 and 51, react freely, subjectively, and often with humor, to a series of tasks proposed by Bel.

Support for *Disabled Theater* is generously provided by Pro Helvetia, the French American Fund for Contemporary Theater, and Performa Patrons Fred and Nancy Poses.

Joan Jonas

Co-presented with Roulette

Joan Jonas's epic, yet delicate multimedia installation and performance *Reanimation* was inspired by the novel *Under the Glacier* (1968) by Icelandic writer Haldor Laxnes. Originally created for dOCUMENTA (13) with jazz pianist Jason Moran, this piece sees the artist and musician responding to each other's work in a live improvisation, creating a particularly icy form of alchemy. A pioneer of video and performance, Jonas is a very influential figure of the New York art scene from conceptual art to video and experimental theater. Born in 1936, Jonas was trained as a sculptor and moved into performance and film in the 1960s, subverting mediated images to question (self-) portraiture and the representation of the body. Her seminal video works in the 1970s pushed her investigation further and addressed issues of gender and feminism. Since the late 1970s, investigating ideas of ritual, process, and repetition, Jonas has developed a large body of work exploring the potentialities of drawing.

Maria Hassabi

Co-presented with The Kitchen

Maria Hassabi's newest dance performance explores the notion of the 'premiere' itself – the moment in which artworks, often created, conceived and rehearsed in private spaces, are presented to the public for the first time. *Premiere* will be comprised of five solos happening simultaneously onstage, performed by a team of outstanding dancers – Hassabi, Hristoula Harakas, Biba Bell, Andros-Zins Browne, and Robert Steijn – who each consider the first revelation of new work in different ways. Maria Hassabi (b. 1973, Cyprus) is a New-York based director, choreographer and performance artist. Hassabi moved to the United States in 1990 to acquire her BFA in Performance and Choreography at the California Institute of the Arts. She was a 2011 Guggenheim Fellow and received The President's Award for Performing Arts from the LMCC in 2012.

Pieter Ampe & Guilherme Garrido

Presented at the Martha Graham Studios

Pieter Ampe and Guilherme Garrido's *Still Difficult Duet* displays the pair's tumultuous yet

intimate relationship as a series of physical interactions. Ampe and Garrido offer a mischievous glimpse into the kaleidoscope of how they connect, revealing it to be complex and fluid: are they friends, lovers, brothers, or rivals? From slaps on the back to violent pinches and punches, the pair literally test the strength of their bond, while considering the different associations accompanying touch, tenderness, and violence, and the struggles between the bodies of men. Pieter Ampe (b. 1982, Belgium) and Guilherme Garrido (b. 1983, Portugal) are a duo that has created performances together since 2007, many of which were in partnership with CAMPO (Ghent). Their extensive resumes include years with renowned choreographer Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker (Ampe) and experience with Maria Clara Villa-Lobos (Garrido).

Cally Spooner

And You Were Wonderful, On Stage is the newest live work by visual artist Cally Spooner (b. 1983, Astor UK). Working with a large ensemble of female singers, Spooner draws on the form of Broadway musicals to articulate a loss of liveness in contemporary life, something that is relinquished in favor of technical perfection. Familiar narratives – from Beyoncé's lip-synching at Obama's inauguration to Lance Armstrong's doping scandal – are utilized to dramatize the standardization of performance in a piece that teeters between comedy and tragedy. Originally performed at the Stedelijk Museum (Amsterdam), this will be the US premiere of *And You Were Wonderful, On Stage*.

PERFORMA PROJECTS

The Performa Projects provide an acclaimed group of artists, curators, and institutions an exciting platform to produce and present new work. More projects will be announced throughout September and October.

Pete Drungle

Co-presented with Roulette

The virtuoso pianist and composer Pete Drungle – known for his epic 24 hour solo piano improvisation of Performa 07 – returns to the biennial and his roots in creating film scores for *Dream Sequences For Solo Piano*. Drungle has culled the dream sequences from Surrealist filmmaker Luis Buñuel, the artist responsible for the infamous eye slicing scene in *Un chien andalou*, and transformed them into a single hour-long sequence that he will accompany live on grand piano. In addition to his own exploration of music as performance art, Drungle has collaborated with artists such as Kronos Quartet, choreographer Sarah Michelson, visual artist Marianne Vitale, and Yoko Ono.

Akademia Ruchu

Co-presented with the Polish Cultural Institute New York, Times Square Alliance, and the Martin E. Segal Theatre Center

Operating at the intersection of art and politics, Akademia Ruchu (the Academy of Movement) has been the sounding board of Poland's political life since its creation in 1974. This collective has merged art and life with hundreds of happenings, anonymous interventions, performances in theaters, and political actions, fostering a sharp reflection on

communist and post-communist Poland. They will present both a new participatory performance specially conceived for the urban environment of Times Square and a series of short performances, *Chinese Lesson / Chińska Lekcja* featuring the core of the company at the Segal Theatre.

The performance by Akademia Ruchu will be produced alongside a survey of the work by this groundbreaking collective. Support for Akademia Ruchu is generously provided by Polish Cultural Institute New York.

Bedwyr Williams

An intrusive and voyeuristic monologue is presented in the private home of a New York art collector for Bedwyr Williams's *Break In*. In it Williams and a team of foley and lighting artists describe the activities of a hapless art thief who finds himself in the presence of contemporary art and begins to question his value structure and the life he has been living up until this very moment. The newest and most ambitious performance by Williams to date will be a site-specific event, location to be named closer to the opening of the biennial. Williams (b. 1974, Wales) creates work that investigates individual and cultural mythology and identity. Drawing on his own personal narratives and family histories, his art questions our ambitions to achieve, to be creative, to make a mark on society, and what it means to contribute to our culture.

Noé Soulier

Co-presented with Danspace Project

In the tradition of French contemporary dance informed by philosophy, emerging choreographer Noé Soulier presents *Idéographie*, a lecture-performance that blurs the line separating art and the discourse that surrounds art while exposing the mechanics of movement. Employing musical structures to create repeated patterns and taking material from various sources – from cognitive science to his memories of classical ballet technique classes – Soulier presents a pure “dance of ideas.” Soulier (b. 1987, France) is one of France’s most promising young choreographers and dancers. Trained as a dancer at the Paris Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse Soulier later attended the National Ballet School of Canada in Toronto. From 2007-2010 he studied at P.A.R.T.S. in Brussels, the school founded by Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker.

Man with a Projector

Presented at Eyebeam

At the intersection of visual art, performance, and cinema, *Man with a Projector* is a rare chance to view a selection of both historic works and new performances by British experimental filmmakers Malcolm Le Grice (b. 1940, UK) and Guy Sherwin (b. 1948, UK). These key members of the London Film Makers' Cooperative in the 1960s and 70s helped trigger a new radical vision of avant-garde film. Endorsing a more active, participatory experience of cinema, and focusing their attention on film projection as a live event, Le Grice and Sherwin often employ multiple screen projections, performances, and live projector-manipulation to explore structural components of the cinematic experience: celluloid, light, sound, and time. Trained as a painter, Malcolm Le Grice is known for his film, computer works, and multi-projection video works. Guy Sherwin taught

printing and processing at the London Film Maker's Co-op in the 1970s. Both artists have recently been presented Recent exhibitions include *Shoot Shoot Shoot* (Tate Modern, 2002) and *A Century of Artists' Film and Video* (Tate Britain, 2003-4).

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ABOUT PERFORMA

Founded in 2004 by art historian and curator RoseLee Goldberg, Performa is the leading international organization dedicated to exploring the critical role of live visual art performance in the history of the twentieth century and to generating new directions for the twenty-first century, engaging artists and audiences through experimentation, innovation, and collaboration. Performa's unique commissioning, touring, and year-round education programs, involving all disciplines, forge a new course for contemporary art and culture, and culminate in the Performa biennial in New York City every other November. In 2005, Performa launched the first-ever biennial dedicated to visual art performance, Performa 05, which was then followed by Performa 07 (2007), Performa 09 (2009), and Performa 11 (2011).

Since its inception, Performa has operated as both an urban and international project demonstrating how organizations can collaborate to present major arts programs that are both artistically innovative and internationally relevant. Performa has developed partnerships with major international institutions, commissioning, producing, and touring work from the Performa program from the very beginning. The Performa Institute, a platform for the research and educational components of Performa, presents lectures, panel discussions, and workshops on an ongoing basis that explore critical issues surrounding performance and its history across disciplines, including visual art, dance, film, music, design, and architecture.

For more information, please visit www.performa-arts.org.

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