



For Immediate Release

PERFORMA PAVILIONS

New Program to Support International Artists and Networks Through “Pavilions Without Walls” For the Performa Biennial

Inaugural Participants to Include Norway and Poland

New York, NY, February 27, 2013—Performa is delighted to announce **Performa Pavilions Without Walls, a new international program created in partnership with countries from all over the world, which will kick off in 2013 with the participation of Norway and Poland.**

The Performa Pavilions program sets up large-scale collaborations between Performa and each of the participating countries, so that their international artists, cultural institutions, and art industry workers can be connected not only with the New York City cultural landscape, but with global audiences as well.

These “pavilions without walls” will be modeled after the way that pavilions function during the Venice Biennale, but without the expense of built structures or the limitations of only supporting artists of certain nationalities. Instead, Performa and the three participating countries will collaborate to pool resources from the ground up, creating a comprehensive cultural exchange platform that includes commissioning, producing, touring, educating, collaborating and job training. These intensive multi-year partnerships will incorporate Performa’s vision of the city as a vibrant urban landscape by using spaces throughout the five boroughs of New York along with the extraordinary cultural infrastructures of these three countries. In this way, the Performa Pavilions are a truly collective effort to develop, present, and disseminate the most innovative art and culture of our time around the world.

The program will begin in 2013, with all projects growing out of the first Performa Pavilions to make their U.S. premieres during the Performa 13 biennial, which will take place in New York City from November 1-24, 2013.

Each of the Performa Pavilions will have five major components:

1. **A major new performance by a single artist**, co-commissioned with Performa
2. **An “omnibus” project featuring multiple international artists**, co-produced with Performa
3. **2-3 smaller-scale performance projects**, that will be “exchanged” between Performa and similar non-profit organizations in each participating country

4. **Invitations to curators, artists, scholars, and other art workers** from each participating country to be major participants in the Performa Institute
5. **6-18 months of professional training and development** as part of the Performa 13 staff for two emerging cultural producers from each participating country

The artists selected for any of the first three program elements do not need to be originally from or currently residing in the collaborating country—rather, the program is designed to support *international* artists, using the combined cultural resources of Performa and the participating countries. After a year-long research and development phase, a team of scholars, curators, and art workers from Norway and Poland will then come to New York as an integral part of its operation and to be an important part of the related and educational events accompanying it.

Performa envisions this new initiative as the laying of the groundwork for long-term cultural partnerships with Norway and Poland, as well as the beginning of similar dynamic collaborations with many more countries in the future.

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). Performa will present its fifth biennial, Performa 13, in November 2013.

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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