

◆ PERFORMA 11

NEW VISUAL ART PERFORMANCE

For Immediate Release

PERFORMA 11

**PERFORMA ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL PERFORMA COMMISSIONS
AND FIRST TWO PERFORMA PREMIERES
FOR UPCOMING BIENNIAL**

**PERFORMA COMMISSION ARTISTS TO INCLUDE
SIMON FUJIWARA, MIKA ROTTENBERG AND JON KESSLER,
FRANCES STARK, AND MING WONG**

**PERFORMA PREMIERE ARTISTS TO INCLUDE
ROBERT ASHLEY AND BORIS CHARMATZ**

November 1–21, 2011, in New York City

New York, NY, June 27, 2011— **Performa is pleased to announce the next four Performa Commissions** as well as **the first two Performa Premieres** for its upcoming visual art performance biennial, **Performa 11, this November 1–21, 2011, in New York City. Acclaimed artists to receive Performa Commissions** are **Simon Fujiwara, Mika Rottenberg and Jon Kessler, Frances Stark, and Ming Wong. Performa Premieres** will be presented by celebrated artists **Robert Ashley and Boris Charmatz**. As **America’s first biennial to present international artists in all disciplines**, Performa 11 presents a wide range of exciting and engaging new work by both established and emerging artists from around the world.

RoseLee Goldberg, Performa Founding Director and Curator, says, “I am thrilled to announce our next group of Performa Commissions and our first two Performa Premieres. These awards allow artists to take off in whatever directions they choose and bring their

ideas to life in extraordinary ways.” Goldberg adds, “We’re especially excited to work with such a cross-generational group of artists, ranging from up-and-coming artists like Simon Fujiwara to legendary figures like Robert Ashley.”

The **Performa Commissions**, a central part of the Performa biennial, give artists unparalleled support to realize new work in live performance. These five newly-announced artists join an acclaimed group of additional artists who have already received Performa Commissions for Performa 11: Iona Rozeal Brown, Elmgreen & Dragset, Ragnar Kjartansson, Guy Maddin, and Shirin Neshat. The **Performa Premieres** program, launched in 2009 with artists including Tacita Dean, William Kentridge, and Joan Jonas, presents exceptional live works that have never been seen in New York. Working closely with each artist, Performa finds the perfect venue for every project, tailoring it especially for the unique context of New York City. Performa's Commissions, Premieres, and Projects are curated by RoseLee Goldberg, along with Performa's team of curators and producers including Defne Ayas, Mark Beasley, Esa Nickle, Dougal Phillips, and Lana Wilson.

Performa will announce additional Performa Commissions, Performa Premieres, and Performa Projects in July and August, along with exciting programs from the Performa Consortium of over 40 arts and cultural organizations, and by more than 25 international curators.

For his Performa Commission, **Simon Fujiwara** (b. 1982, London, England) will present an original theatrical performance, *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*, that explores themes including homosexuality, family dynamics, and the secret sexual powers of Abstract Expressionist painting. Weaving new performance work created specially for New York with excerpts from a number of his previous acclaimed autobiographical performances and installations, *The Boy Who Cried Wolf* will ultimately be an epic narrative in three acts. Fujiwara’s absurd and labyrinthine narrative will be brought to the stage with the aid of actors, musicians, and a mobile set.

Artists **Mika Rottenberg** (b. 1976, Buenos Aires, Argentina) and **Jon Kessler** (b. 1957, Yonkers, New York) will collaborate to present *7*, a performance and installation that stretches from the urban landscape of New York to the savannahs of Africa. Mixing Kessler’s kinetic sculptures with Rottenberg’s absurdist videos, *7* will collapse film time and real time to create an intricate laboratory that channels body fluids and colors into a spectacle on the African savannah. In New York, a “Chakra Juicer” will capture sweat from seven performers engaging in ritualistic athletic activity. The collected chakra fluids will be processed in an on-site lab and sent to Africa to instigate a fantastical community celebration.

Language and its poesy and rhythm are central to **Frances Stark’s** (b. 1967, Newport Beach, CA) engagement with the world. Borrowing words and phrases from novels, poems, and pop songs, she turns them into visual material that evoke the process of writing. Stark’s Performa Commission takes viewers on a semi-autobiographical stroll through the creative chaos of the artist’s life, working closely with a dancer and DJ from New York’s dance hall daggering scene. Written with close attention to the rhythm and pattern of language, Stark’s

confessional performances are intimate and inclusive, presenting the facts of her life in a story that rises, falls, and diminishes like the chapters of a book.

Inspired by Ingmar Bergman's 1966 masterpiece *Persona*, in which an actress and her nurse exchange identities on the remote Fårö Island, **Ming Wong** (b. 1971, Singapore) presents *Persona Performa*, a powerful meditation on cinema and theater. It will begin with twenty-four amateur New York actors, each representing one frame of film, winding their way through the museum space. The museum itself will become a camera, pointing at, for example, a "Bergman landscape" through the glass walls of the cafe. After a series of "live action performances" in the public spaces of the museum, the show will move into the main theater, where Wong and his cast will perform a series of live sound and video experiments on a movie studio set.

For his Performa Premiere, **Robert Ashley** (b. 1930, Ann Arbor, Michigan)—a pioneer of opera-for-television and mixed media musical theater—will present *That Morning Thing* (1967), an opera in three acts for men's and women's speaking voices and eight dancers. The opera premiered at the ONCE Festival in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 1968 and was later presented at the Cross Talk Intermedia Festival in Tokyo, Japan, and the Center for Contemporary Music, Mills College, in Oakland, California. Two scenes from the opera—"Purposeful Lady Slow Afternoon" and "She Was a Visitor"—became legends when they were recorded in the 1970s.

Choreographer **Boris Charmatz** (b. 1973, Chambéry, France) will re-conceive his groundbreaking *Musée de la Danse (Dancing Museum)* to premiere in New York City as part of Performa 11. A radical new way of looking at the history and future of dance through a unique live experience, *Musée de la Danse: Expo Zéro* is an exhibition comprised of completely empty rooms filled by the gestures, projects, bodies, stories, and dances which visitors will both see and imagine. Equal parts artistic project, institutional platform, and political proposition, Charmatz's Performa Premiere will undoubtedly have a lasting impact not only on the New York City dance scene, but on the larger culture as well.

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ABOUT PERFORMA 11

Performa 11, the fourth edition of the internationally acclaimed biennial of new visual art performance presented by Performa, will be held in New York City from November 1–21, 2011. The three-week biennial will showcase new work by more than 100 of the most exciting artists working today, in an innovative program breaking down the boundaries between visual art, music, dance, poetry, fashion, architecture, graphic design, and the culinary arts. Presented in collaboration with a consortium of more than 50 arts institutions and 25 curators, as well as a network of public spaces and private venues across the city, Performa 11 will ignite New York City with energy and ideas, acting as a vital “think tank” linking minds across the five boroughs and bringing audiences together for brilliant new performances in all disciplines.

Founded in 2004 by art historian and curator RoseLee Goldberg, Performa is the leading organization dedicated to exploring the critical role of live performance in the history of twentieth-century art and to encouraging new directions in performance for the twenty-first century. Performa launched New York’s first performance biennial, Performa 05, in 2005, followed by Performa 07 (2007), and Performa 09 (2009). www.performa-arts.org

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