



For Immediate Release

PERFORMA 11

THE FOURTH EDITION OF THE HIGHLY ACCLAIMED BIENNIAL OF NEW VISUAL ART PERFORMANCE

TO FEATURE MORE THAN 100 INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS AND
10 NEW PERFORMA COMMISSIONS
IN SPECTACULAR CITY-WIDE EVENTS

November 1–21, 2011 in New York City

New York, NY, March 8, 2011— **Performa is pleased to announce its fourth visual art performance biennial, Performa 11, taking place November 1–21, 2011, throughout New York City.** Performa 11 will feature performances by **over 100 of the most exciting contemporary artists**, including **12 Performa Commissions** by **acclaimed artists from around the world**, as well as **Performa Premieres** and **a host of new works by up-and-coming artists**. This year's biennial will be a thrilling showcase of live culture across all artistic disciplines, **taking place at over 80 venues throughout New York City** and presented in **collaboration with a consortium of over 40 arts and cultural organizations**.

Since Performa's first biennial took New York City by storm in 2005, Performa has succeeded in presenting the **nation's first and only live visual art performance biennial**. It has become one of the most anticipated art events in the country and internationally, having **reached an audience of over 70,000 people**. With its biennial, Performa has not only changed the course of performance art history, but it has also caused a ripple effect around the world with museums, organizations, and festivals incorporating performance into their programming. Once again, Performa will present its critically acclaimed series of Commissions and Premieres, many by artists who have never worked live before, and will

create a one-of-a-kind opportunity to see, hear, and taste the freshest ideas, enjoy new artistic perspectives, and experience New York City like never before.

RoseLee Goldberg, Performa's Founding Director and Curator, says, "In just five years, Performa has changed people's minds about the very nature and meaning of artists' performance. It has shown it to be an inspiring, profound, and accessible platform for exciting new ideas. Performa gives the public a highly selected but broad overview of performance in different disciplines, and, in just three weeks, viewers can come to understand the most important new developments in contemporary art and culture. It is thrilling to work with Performa artists to realize their extraordinary visions."

PROGRAM

Over its three-week run, the Performa Hub, designed by nOffice, will function as the biennial's headquarters, offering a venue for special performances, screenings, panel discussions, bookshop, lounge, and a visitor information center. To program this year's biennial, Performa will draw upon the rich cultural landscape of New York City by partnering with over 40 innovative local arts and cultural organizations. Working with this consortium of presenting partners, the biennial will create a lively dialogue through different disciplines working and thinking together. This collaboration creates an exciting cultural atmosphere; a unique cross-pollination think tank with an exchange of ideas, sharing of resources, and new connections between organizations and arts professionals.

Performa Board of Directors Chair Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn adds, "Performa's biennial will once again transform the landscape of New York and send a jolt of energy throughout the city. Performa 11 will provide a unique opportunity to see live events in all disciplines of the arts. Whether a modest performance or a large-scale production, there is always a sense that you have to be there."

COMMISSIONS

A central part of Performa's biennials are its Commissions, which originate exciting new performances by visual artists, many of whom have never worked live before. This year, Performa will present 12 new Performa Commissions by both established and up-and-coming artists. Artists receive unparalleled support to realize powerful, intellectually reflective, and artistically innovative works of live performance that vary widely in scale, taking place at venues from a small local bar to a large opera house.

To date, Performa has commissioned 24 projects by 45 artists, including Francis Alÿs (Performa 05); Jesper Just (Performa 05); Sanford Biggers (Performa 07); Isaac Julien (Performa 07); Carols Amorales (Performa 07); Daria Martin (Performa 07); Japanther (Performa 07); Nathalie Djurberg (Performa 07); Christian Jankowski (Performa 07); Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster (Performa 09); Mike Kelley (Performa 09); Guy Ben-Ner (Performa 09); Candice Breitz (Performa 09); Omer Fast (Performa 09); Arto Lindsay (Performa 09); Christian Tomaszewski (Performa 09); Yeondoo Jung (Performa 09); and Wangechi Mutu (Performa 09), among others, many of which have gone on to tour internationally. In addition to the Commissions, a series of Performa Premieres and a host of other new work will be shown during the biennial.

Performa will announce its Commission artists in mid-April.

HISTORICAL AND RESEARCH THEMES

Along with presenting new work, Performa also provides a link to the past with historical and research themes focusing on performance history from the twentieth century. This year's research theme, ***Language, Translation, and Misinformation*** will investigate the use of language in the field of performance by visual artists versus that of theater actors. The two historical themes, **Russian Constructivism** (1913–1940s) and **Fluxus** (1960s) — which both used language in a visual art context — along with the research theme will act as a point of departure for the work selected for the biennial program.

FUNDING

Lead support for has been provided by Toby Devan Lewis; Lambent Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation; and The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. Major support has been provided by Sharjah Art Foundation; National Endowment for the Arts; The David and Elaine Potter Foundation; Christie's; Imagine Ireland; and Paddle8. Additional support has been provided by Depart Foundation for the Discussion Exhibition and Production of Art; Royal Norwegian Consulate General in New York; The Cultural Services of the French Embassy/Maison Francaise and Institut Francais; New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; Consulate General of Denmark in New York; Etant Donnés Contemporary Art; FUSED: French U.S. Exchange in Dance, a program of the National Dance Project/New England Foundation for the Arts and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in New York, and FACE (French American Cultural Exchange), with lead funding from Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Florence Gould Foundation; The Dedalus Foundation; Office for Contemporary Art Norway; Danish Arts Council Committee for International Visual Arts; Arts Council Norway; SAHA, Toshiba; Dorothea Leonhardt Fund, Communities Foundation of Texas; Mondriaan Foundation, Amsterdam; Office of Cultural Affairs, Consulate General of Israel in NY; Artis – Contemporary Israeli Art Fund; The American-Scandinavian Foundation; Helena Rubinstein Foundation; Moon and Stars Project of The American Turkish Society; Foundation of Contemporary Arts; the Performa Board of Directors; the Performa Producers Circle; the Performa Curators Circle; and the Performa Visionaries. Media sponsorship has been provided by Art in America, W Magazine, Art Asia Pacific, Frieze, artnet, and Whitewall.

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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