

◆ PERFORMA 11

NEW VISUAL ART PERFORMANCE

For Immediate Release

PERFORMA 11

PERFORMA ANNOUNCES THE PERFORMA INSTITUTE

A NEW PLATFORM FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL COMPONENTS
OF THE PERFORMA 11 BIENNIAL

FEATURING MAJOR NEW EXHIBITION IN COLLABORATION WITH
GARAGE CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY CULTURE, MOSCOW

AS WELL AS CLASSES TAUGHT BY PERFORMA 11 ARTISTS,
CURATORS, AND COLLABORATORS

Performa Institute at the Performa Hub
233 Mott Street, New York

Press Preview, November 2, 11 am – 1 pm
RSVP press@performa-arts.org

Opening Reception, November 2, 5–8 pm

New York, NY, October 31, 2011 – Performa is pleased to announce the **Performa Institute**, a **new initiative as part of Performa 11**, the visual art performance biennial (November 1–21, 2011) in New York City. The Performa Institute provides a **new platform for the research and educational components of the biennial**. Situated at the Performa Hub, in a former elementary school in Nolita, the **Performa Institute creates an active space for the exploration of ideas, with a focus on the study of art history while forging a new intellectual culture around contemporary performance.**

The Performa Institute will include a series of classes taught by Performa 11 artists including **Elmgreen & Dragset, Mika Rottenberg and Jon Kessler, Guy Maddin, and Julieta Aranda and Carlos Motta**, as well as curators and writers who will function as educators across disciplines. Classes will range from exhibition-making and historical research, to visions for the future of art and ideas in New York City and around the world. The Performa Institute will also explore historical and research themes that form the background to Performa 11 including the use of language and the historical references of **Russian Constructivism and Fluxus**.

Performa and Garage Center for Contemporary Culture, Moscow, are also pleased to announce an important new collaborative initiative as part of the Performa Institute's program. Titled ***33 Fragments of Russian Performance***, the exhibition will include archives, photographs, and videos documentation of Russian performance from the historical avant-garde of the 1920s to the present. Curated by Garage curator Yulia Aksenova in collaboration with Performa Founding Director and Curator RoseLee Goldberg, the exhibition will also include a lecture by renowned Russian art critic **Alexandra Obukhova** and a performance by visual artist **Andrey Kuzkin**.

Over its three-week run, the Performa Hub, designed by nOffice, will function as the location for the Performa Institute as well as the biennial's headquarters, offering a venue for special performances, screenings and panel discussions, as well as a bookshop, lounge, and a visitor information center. The Performa Hub will be located in the heart of Nolita at the corner of Prince and Mott Streets and will use the classrooms and other spaces in the empty historic school building for various biennial events.

PERFORMA INSTITUTE SCHEDULE

On View November 2–21

33 Fragments of Russian Performance

The exhibition will include archives, photographs, and videos documentation of Russian performance from the historical avant-garde of the 1920s to the present. Curated by Garage curator Yulia Aksenova in collaboration with Performa Founding Director and Curator RoseLee Goldberg.

Wednesday, November 2

Alexandra Obukhova, *Action vs Performance: A Short History of Moscow Performance, 1970–2000s*, 5 pm

Alexandra Obukhova, renowned Russian art historian and curator will deliver a lecture on Russian performance from the avant-garde to the contemporary, in association with the Performa and Garage Center for Contemporary Culture, Moscow collaborative exhibition *33 Fragments of Russian Performance*.

Thursday, November 3

Serkan Özkaya, *Artist Class: Speech Acts and 3D Modeling*, 1 pm

Speech Acts can be summarized as the unison of the utterance and the act or the language and the world. Taking inspiration from British philosopher of language, John Langshaw Austin's "How To Do Things with Words", and the 3D modeling of Michelangelo's *David* by Dr. Marc Levoy of Stanford University, Özkaya will explore the ways in which language replaces the world and representation replaces the object.

Friday, November 4

Liutauras Psibilskis, Michael David Quattlebaum Jr., and Sissel Kardel, *Blindness and Ginger Island*, 1 pm

Take a class with *Ginger Island Project* curator Liutauras Psibilskis and artists Michael David Quattlebaum Jr. and Sissel Kardel on the topic of blindness and the experience of the Fluxus travelers on Ginger Island.

Professor Daniel Gerould, *Adrian Piotrovsky, Soviet Mass Spectacles, and Festive Performance with Live Recitation*, 3 pm

Lecture and Discussion with Prof. Daniel Gerould on Adrian Piotrovsky, Soviet Mass Spectacles, and Festive Performance ("eoratology"), with a live recitation.

Saturday, November 5

Mai-Thu Perret, *Artist Class: Utopia*, 1 pm

Join Performa 11 Premiere artist Mai-Thu Perret for an Artist Class exploring the topics of Russian Constructivism and Utopia.

Elmgreen & Dragset, *Artist Class*, 3 pm

Take a very special class with Performa Commission artists Elmgreen & Dragset. Performa Commission artists Elmgreen and Dragset will answer your questions about *Happy Days in the Art World* and their *Retrospective* in New York. Their latest publication, *Elmgreen & Dragset, Performances, 1995 – 2011*, a collection of their performances, will be available for sale and signing.

Tuesday, November 8

Liz Glynn, *Artist Class: The Best of Intentions: Futility, Failure, and Performance*, 1 pm

In this Artist Class, Glynn will explore the relationship between human scale and iconic monumental form, the messiness of collective negotiation, and the tensions and desires around structural perfection and monumentality.

Antonio Manuel, *A discussion and screening of his short films Arte Hoje and Semi Ótica*, 5 pm

This discussion will include artist Antonio Manuel with Claudia Calirman and Gabriela Rangel, curators of his first solo exhibition in the US, *Antonio Manuel: I Want to Act, Not*

Represent! now on view at the Americas Society. During the class, the short films *Arte Hoje* (1976), *Semi Ótica* (1975), and *Loucura & Cultura* (1973) feature friends and fellow artists Rogério Duarte, Hélio Oiticica, Lygia Pape, Luiz Carlos Saldanha, and Caetano Veloso.

Mika Rottenberg and Jon Kessler, *Artist Talk*, 6:30 pm

Co-presented with Columbia University School of the Arts, Performa 11 Commission artists Mika Rottenberg and Jon Kessler discuss their collaborative project *SEVEN*.

Wednesday, November 9

Nicoline van Harskamp, *Any Other Business: A Scripted Conference*, 5 pm

Beginning November 10, 12:10 pm daily through November 21

Any Other Business is a fully scripted conference recorded for a live audience in an Amsterdam convention center. In each of its nine meetings, based on original political debates and speeches, a productive type of miscommunication occurs.

Thursday, November 10

John Powers, *Star Wars and the Rhetoric of Power*, 3 pm

A talk about star wars, not as literary fantasy but as an real object; an object made at a particular time and place, by a particular group of people, informed by the politics of American modernism.

Raphaël Zarka, *Artist Talk: The Geometry of Skateboarding*, 5 pm

Zarka presents recent research into the “geometry of skateboarding” and its relation to modern sculpture, which will also be translated into English for the first time and available for the audience as a free publication.

Friday, November 11

Ragnar Kjartansson and Conductor Davíð fiór Jónsson, *Artists Class: Music and Forgiveness*, 3 pm

Join Performa 11 Commission artist Ragnar Kjartansson and Conductor David fiór Jónsson for a very special class on Mozart, music and forgiveness.

Saturday, November 12

Burak Arıkan, *Artist Class: Creative Networking Workshop*, 1 pm

New media artist Burak Arıkan, who works at the cross-section of art, activism, and entrepreneurship, gives a workshop focusing on the design of large scale networks as a creative activity, and expanding the individual's thinking about the network as a creative medium.

Melanie Crean and Claire Picher, *Building Better Speech Performance Workshops*, 3–6 pm

Explore performance and technology-based strategies to facilitate speech with groups that are affected by political transformation or upheaval, investigating how issues of identity and power can be communicated as a form of text through gesture and socially-based technical frameworks. Co-presented by the Vera List Center for Art and Politics, New School.

Sunday, November 13

Julieta Aranda and Carlos Motta, *Thank You and Good-Bye*, 5 pm

A public discussion with Julieta Aranda and Carlos Motta, the artists behind the Performa Project *Broken English* contributors Naeem Mohaiemen, Adam Kleinman, and Performa Curator at Large Defne Ayas, that will use the publication *Broken English* as a point of departure to shift the focus from "Constructivism" as a movement in art and design to "Constructivism" as a sociological theory of knowledge focused in group interactions.

Monday, November 14

Mark Beasley and Nathaniel Mellors, *Cockadoodledon't!!!: Humor and Language*, 3 pm

Performa curator Mark Beasley and Performa 11 artist Nathaniel Mellors discuss the serious nonsense and surreal side of humor and language, from vaudeville, Beckett, and Monty Python to the absurdist scripts and psychedelic theater of Mellors' own works *Giantbum* and *Ourhouse*.

Tuesday, November 15

Abbas Akhavan, Fatima Al Qadiri, Khalid al Gharaballi, and Youmna Chlala, *The Anti-Artist Talk Series*, 1 pm

In a series of three talks artists explore a theme tangential to their own work in an attempt to dismantle the predominance and formulaic structure of the conventional artist talk. Curated by Barrak Alzaid, Artistic Director ArteEast.

Wednesday, November 16

Michael Portnoy, *Artist Class: Permutation Riff Tank*, 3 pm

Michael Portnoy will lead participants in a bit of "conceptual horticulture," developing new breeds of practice from the seeds of works presented in Performa 11.

Dennis Oppenheim, "Compression Fern" (1970), Screening and Action, 5 pm

Performa 11 celebrates the life and work of Dennis Oppenheim with two days of programming. A special screening of "Compression Fern" (1970) from *Tooth and Nail: Film and Video 1970-1974* by Dennis Oppenheim. The viewing of "Compression Fern" (1970) will be paired with attempts to compress organic material provided on the night. With Maja Rajenovich.

Thursday, November 17

Proposed Curriculum on Contemporary Art and Performance: Dennis Oppenheim and The Art of Survival, Day 17, 1 pm

Three conversational seminars around the life and work of Dennis Oppenheim. Each will bring distinct vantage points to the discussion of Oppenheim's work and practice, and in particular his lifelong interrogation of the idea of performance and body projects.

Provisional seminar 517: Dennis Oppenheim, *Lecture #1, 1976*The soundtrack from this installation, a lecture, will be performed by an artist surrogate in a room setting. A discussion will follow. Suggested areas for conversation are art world conditions, inspiration, and survival.

Provisional seminar 294: Dennis Oppenheim, *Theme for a Major Hit, 1974*The soundtrack, the artist's collaborative recording, will be presented. A discussion will follow. Suggested areas for conversation are autobiography, collaboration, and surrogate performance.

Provisional seminar 301: Dennis Oppenheim, *Radicality, 1974*A photo-documentation will be presented for consideration. A discussion will follow. Suggested areas for conversation are the semiotics of radicality, temporal art, and alternative sites.

Friday, November 18

Liam Gillick and Anton Vidokle, *A Guiding Light (Part II), 5 pm*

A Guiding Light was first produced as a collaboration between Performa and the Shanghai Biennale in 2010. Gillick and Vidokle will re-frame the piece by creating a 'behind-the-scenes' conversation that will be part screening, part critique, and part mock staging for the film. With Gao Shiming, Tim Griffin, and other "actors" on site.

Ben Kinmont with Laurel George, *Ethical Considerations in Project Art Practices, 6 pm*

A presentation by cultural anthropologist Laurel George and Performa 11 artist Ben Kinmont considering interactional art practices outside of institutional space, a mode that Kinmont has been working in for over two decades.

Saturday, November 19

Guy Maddin, *Artist Class: The Power of a Continuity-Free Cinema, 3 pm*

A very special artist class with Performa 11 Commission artist and filmmaker Guy Maddin.

The Performa Institute is organized by Dougal Phillips, Manager of Curatorial Affairs, and Defne Ayas Curator at Large.

FUNDING

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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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