

For Immediate Release

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NEW VISUAL ART PERFORMANCE

**PERFORMA ANNOUNCES ARTIST LINEUP FOR PERFORMA 15
AND HIGHLIGHTS AUSTRALIA FOR PAVILION WITHOUT WALLS SECTION**

New York — Performa, the internationally acclaimed organization dedicated to live performance across disciplines, announces its full artist list for Performa 15. The sixth edition brings together more than 30 artists from 12 countries around the world to participate in three weeks of exciting programming including Performa Commissions, Performa Projects, Performa Premieres, Performa Hub, Pavilion Without Walls, and more—breaking down the boundaries between visual art, music, dance, poetry, film, and architecture. With Performa 15, Performa celebrates its 10th Anniversary and illuminates the extensive influence of the organization and its program. Performa 15 marks a more selective edition, adding extraordinary new work to the genre. The program highlights a strong group of new artists while celebrating returning artists in honor of its first decade. For each biennial, Performa pays homage to a bygone era through a historical anchor, such as Futurism and Russian Constructivism, showing the prevalence of *live art* during earlier periods; this year the historic reference is The Renaissance.

“The program takes the viewer across a wide spectrum of ideas, providing examples of what it means to be a visual artist working *live*, working with space and time while always with a highly visual focus” says RoseLee Goldberg, Founding Director and Curator of Performa. “Each work contains complex issues, of society, art and politics, and it’s fascinating to see how each artist uses the many layers of live performance to express various viewpoints, while finding ways in the process of engaging an audience in their conversation.”

Since its inception Performa has been a leader in commissioning artists whose works have shaped a new chapter in the multi-century legacy of visual artists working in live performance. **Performa 15 will take place on November 1 – 22, 2015, at locations throughout New York City.**

PERFORMA 15 PROGRAM:

OPENING NIGHT – Sunday, November 1, 2015:

Italian artist **Francesco Vezzoli** in collaboration with American classical ballet dancer **David Hallberg**, principle dancer for the Bolshoi Ballet and American Ballet Theater, will launch **Opening Night** of Performa 15 on **Sunday, November 1, 2015**. Vezzoli and Hallberg will use the Renaissance as a point of departure for their commission to create choreography that reflects the origins of ballet in the 15th-century. The result of carefully researched material that begins with written text, Hallberg-Vezzoli will present Renaissance dance in its earliest form, bringing into question the powerful rituals of the courts, the importance of architecture in performance, and the roles of dancer and audience.

PERFORMA COMMISSIONS:

Performa Commissions originate new performances by inviting artists, some of whom have not worked 'live' before, to create work especially for the Performa biennial. Artists receive financial awards and unique production support to realize innovative works of live performance, working closely with Performa's curatorial and production teams, from conceptualization to presentation, which includes international tours following the biennial.

- **Edgar Arceneaux – *Until, Until, Until...*** Edgar Arceneaux's mise-en-scène of Ben Vereen's controversial, televised performance at Ronald Reagan's 1981 presidential inauguration takes inspiration from the 5-minute portion that was censored that night.
- **Jérôme Bel – *Ballet (New York)*.** Jérôme Bel draws a group of trained and untrained performers from New York on a bold adventure across the city to consider how each environment—dance studio, white cube, and theater—frames the way we look at and 'feel' dance. Co-commissioned by Marian Goodman.
- **Pauline Curnier Jardin – *The Resurrection Plot*.** Curnier Jardin presents an immersive event that draws on pop culture, witchcraft, and the animal kingdom paying tribute to Renaissance "misfits" Arcimboldo, Palissy, and Rabelais.
- **Ryan Gander – *Ernest Hawker*.** Ryan Gander imagines his future self: a conflicted avatar who briefly appears in and around the biennial selling his wares to an unsuspecting public.
- **Agatha Gothe-Snape – *Rhetorical Chorus (LW)*.** Australian artist Agatha Gothe-Snape presents an improvised choral performance and PowerPoint Presentation, considering the physical body's role in transmitting knowledge through the gestural and textual lexicon of Lawrence Weiner. Co-commissioned by Performance Space, Sydney, Australia.
- **Juliana Huxtable – *There Are Certain Facts That Cannot Be Disputed*.** Juliana Huxtable presents a raucous performance that considers cyberspace as a twilight zone of precariousness and preservation, traversing closed servers, bounced URLs, and Google cache as human and digital characters. Co-commissioned by The Museum of Modern Art.
- **Jesper Just – *Untitled*.** Jesper Just returns for Performa 15 with a commission on the 10th anniversary of his performance that inaugurated the first Performa biennial, which dislocates audience and performer through architecture, film, and crowd-sourcing. In collaboration with Danish artist FOS.
- **Wyatt Kahn – *Work*.** Kahn takes on the role of puppet master, presenting a tongue-in-cheek performance in which his paintings come to life as hand puppets which discuss and critique themselves and their maker, eventually rising up against him.
- **Laura Lima – *Gala Chickens and Ball*.** Brazilian artist Laura Lima presents a work conceived as a series of experimental encounters that shift commonly held ideas about the nature of performance and performers.
- **Oscar Murillo – *Lucky dip*.** Oscar Murillo takes up residence at the U.S. Customs House on Bowling Green posing questions about trade and globalization on a macroeconomic scale; exploring

the ways capital molds individual lives, relationships, and communities.

- **Robin Rhode – *Arnold Schönberg's Erwartung - A Performance by Robin Rhode*.** Robin Rhode reimagines Austrian composer Arnold Schönberg's atonal opera about love, loss and longing to reflect the experiences of South African women awaiting the return of their husbands. Presented in Times Square.
- **Francesco Vezzoli and David Hallberg – *Fortuna Desperata*.** Artist Francesco Vezzoli and dancer David Hallberg present a performance that explores the birth of ballet in the royal courts of the Italian Renaissance.
- **Erika Vogt – *Artist Theater Program*.** Erika Vogt brings together a group of LA-based artists including Math Bass and Shannon Ebner, to imagine a live exhibition, unfolding in space as well as time, that plays with the mechanics of the theater.
- **Zheng Mahler – *New York Post-Et Prefiguratif (Before and After New York)*.** Art collective Zheng Mahler explores the economic relationships between Asia and Africa, melding these distinct narratives in a performance that draws on the immigration patterns of New York City.

PERFORMA PROJECTS:

Performa Projects are commissions that enable artists to create new work that is generally more eclectic, experimental, and process centered, sometimes providing more intimate experiences.

- **Derrick Adams – *Pablo Fanque's Circus Royal/SIDESHOW*.** Inspired by Pablo Fanque (1796-1871), Britain's first black circus owner, artist Derrick Adams acts as ringmaster for a portable circus of sideshow performances at the Performa Hub.
- **Performa Poetry Series – *What if someone told u you were significant?*.** The Performa Poetry Series introduces a program of Alt-Lit poets, whose ideas take flight through the informal vernaculars that punctuate popular expression on social media and digital spaces.
- **Will Rawls – *Personal Effects*.** Will Rawls' new solo work takes the history of dance as its point of departure, recombining vocabularies, images, and phrases that have shaped his body as a vehicle for performance.
- **Grand Finale –** Performa 15 Grand Finale celebrates the closing of the biennial and the presents the 3rd edition of the Malcolm McLaren Award.
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PERFORMA PREMIERES:

Performa Premieres presents exceptional live works that have premiered elsewhere but have not been seen in New York. Despite the earlier debut, the works are changed by the new setting and context of New York City.

- **Volmir Cordeiro – *Inês*.** In this North-American premiere of his solo, Cordeiro explores the insatiable desire for fame and the dynamic give-and-take between celebrity and fan, through his assumed identity of Inês.

- **Heather Phillipson – *FINAL DAYS*.** Heather Phillipson deconstructs the modern department store in a video installation that pits the retail landscape against the new frontiers of online shopping.
- **Ulla von Brandenburg – *Sink Down Mountain, Rise Up Valley*.** Ulla von Brandenburg investigates the rituals of the Saint-Simonians, a 19th century cult credited with the birth of French socialism, through an 18-minute film shot in a single take.

PAVILION WITHOUT WALLS:

Pavilion Without Walls connects international artists with global audiences and the New York City arts community through collaborations between pavilion cultural partners and Performa's team to develop a curatorial program for the biennial. This year's biennial highlights Australia and investigates critical concerns relating to the nation's isolation, colonial history, perceived 'provincialism,' Asian-Pacific geographic identity, and the cultural impact of Aboriginal activism.

In partnership with Performance Space, Artspace, and the Institute of Modern Art in Brisbane, Pavilion Without Walls will consist of live performances, performance history research, analysis of the cultural landscape of Australia through the lens of contemporary art, and will feature artists Agatha Gothe-Snape, Brian Fuata, Richard Bell, Zheng Mahler, Justene Williams, and Art Historian Terry Smith.

- **Richard Bell – *Embassy*.** Richard Bell stages an Aboriginal Embassy, featuring programming that draws attention to the relationship between performance and protest, and the issues faced by Indigenous Australians today.
- **Brian Fuata – *All Titles, No Centre Crux: the email performances in PERFORMA 2015*.** Working in concert with the Ray Johnson Estate, Australian artist Brian Fuata presents a series of performances in dialogue with the mail art pioneer's extensive archives.
- **Justene Williams – *The Curtain Breathed Deeply*.** Justene Williams blends voodoo and shamanistic rituals with pop culture in a surreal and immersive performance that speaks to our most primitive fears and desires.
- **WrongSolo – *Residency: Cardinals*.** Australian artist collective Wrong Solo (Agatha Gothe-Snape, Brian Fuata, and Shane Haseman) presents a self-reflexive three-part performance that speculates on the contemporary art world, developed in residence at the Performa Hub.
- **Agatha Gothe –Snape** (see under Commissions)

PERFORMA HUB:

Performa Hub, started in 2009, is an architectural commission that functions as the biennial's headquarters. Offering a venue for special performances, screenings, panel discussions, artists' seminars, a lounge, shop, and visitor information center. Performa Hub is an architectural manifestation of Performa's vision, a place for bringing to life publically the conceptual underpinnings of the organization, serving as a proposal for a kind of architecture that draws the public in as participants—literally directing them to various activities by using changing seating arrangements, or moving walls to create a recording studio, box office, reading room, meeting space, lecture theater, performance and exhibition space, or venue for food events.

PERFORMA INSTITUTE:

The Performa Institute provides a platform for the research and educational components of the biennial and

serves as a laboratory for artistic experiments. A space for the research, exploration, and presentation of ideas with a focus on the study of history, art, and culture, this dynamic locus stimulates an ongoing dialogue throughout the biennial with daily “master” classes, propositions, lectures, screenings, and selections of experimental performances and installations. Performa Institute program runs daily throughout the biennial. Performa 15 artists-in-residence include:

- **Chimurenga – *Library*.** South African collective Chimurenga presents a multi-tiered programming platform in the Performa 15 Hub, hosting a library-of-people through a broad spectrum of collaborators to create improvised bodies of knowledge.
- **Jonathas de Andrade – *Residency: A Study of Race and Class – Bahia >< New York*.** Jonathas de Andrade’s work reimagines UNESCO’s 1952 report “Race and Class in Rural Brazil” within New York City, creating an ethnographic experiment where the audience participates as viewers and subjects.
- **Eleonora Fabião – *Things That Must Be Done Series*.** Eleonora Fabião creates experimental group performances that unfold in the streets of New York City, exploring geometry, abstraction, political potential, and vulnerability in capitalist societies.

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS (TO DATE):

Derrick Adams (b. 1970, Baltimore, Maryland)

Edgar Arceneaux (b. 1972, Los Angeles, California)

Nina Beier (b. 1975, Copenhagen, Denmark)

Jérôme Bel (b. 1964, Paris, France)

Richard Bell (b. 1953, Charleville, Queensland)

Chimurenga (f. 2002, South Africa)

Volmir Cordeiro (b.1987, Santa Catarina, Brazil)

Pauline Curnier Jardin (b. 1980, Pertuis, France)

Jonathas de Andrade (b. 1982, Maceió, Brazil)

Eleonora Fabião (b. 1968, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)

Brian Fuata (b. 1978, Wellington, New Zealand)

Simon Fujiwara (b. 1982, London, England)

Ryan Gander (b. 1976, London, England)

Agatha Gothe-Snape (b. 1980, Sydney, Australia)

David Hallberg (b. 1982, Rapid City, South Dakota)

Juliana Huxtable (b. 1987, Bryan-College Station, Texas)

Jesper Just (b. 1974, Copenhagen, Denmark)

Wyatt Kahn (b. 1983, New York)

Laura Lima (b. 1971, Minas Gerais, Brazil)

Zheng Mahler (Royce Ng and Daisy Bisenieks, b. 1983, f. 1993, Melbourne, Australia)

Oscar Murillo (b. 1986, La Paila, Colombia)

Christodoulos Panayiotou (b. 1978, Limassol, Cyprus)

Heather Phillipson (b. 1978, London, England)

Will Rawls (b. 1978, Boston, Massachusetts)

Robin Rhode (b. 1976, Cape Town)

Francesco Vezzoli (b. 1971, Brescia, Italy)

Erika Vogt (b. 1973, Newark, New Jersey)

Ulla von Brandenburg (b. 1974, Karlsruhe, Germany)

Justene Williams (b. 1970, Sydney, Australia)

APERTURE MAGAZINE:

For its tenth anniversary Performa partners with Aperture Magazine to conceive and publish a special issue exploring the intersection of performance and photography. Founded in 1952, Aperture is the reference publication dedicated to the medium of photography. Co-edited by Aperture Editor Michael Famighetti and Performa Curator, Charles Aubin the upcoming winter issue capaciously explores the two mediums' crossroad, from subjects performing for the camera to documentation of performance-based works, as well as live experiences created around photographs. The issue surveys 175 years of photography history from Hippolyte Bayard's *1840 staged Self-Portrait as a Drowned Man* to contemporary artists such as Juliana Huxtable's and Boychild's use of Instagram. The magazine includes a thorough conversation between Performa Director and Chief Curator RoseLee Goldberg and Museum of Modern Art Photography Curator Roxana Marcoci, as well as thematic entries with for example the use of the photographic document in lecture-performances by artists Walid Raad, Rabih Mroué & Lina Saneh, and Joana Hadjithomas & Khalil Joreige. Performa Curator Adrienne Edwards prepared the Portfolios of Zheng Mahler and Carrie Mae Weems. The special issue also features Portfolios of works by Helena Almeida, Samuel Fosso, Babette Mangolte, Barbara Morgan, Torbjørn Rødland, and James Welling. The magazine will exclusively be accessible at the Performa Hub before its public release on November 25, 2015.

ABOUT LAFAYETTE ANTICIPATION:

Lafayette Anticipation is the first multidisciplinary center for contemporary art, design, and fashion in France. Founded in October 2013, the non-profit foundation will inaugurate its new home in the Marais district of Paris in 2017. As a place of experimentation and creative research, the foundation offers artists, creatives, designers, and performers unique conditions and tools for developing prototypes, implementing projects, and taking their work in new directions. Solo exhibitions and group shows will take place alongside a variety of public programs, from conferences and symposiums to performances and screenings. Lafayette Anticipation is distinguished by its operational flexibility and its willingness to keep a window open to the unexpected. Attentive to the latest developments in art as well as in society, Lafayette Anticipation is a

permeable, constantly evolving space, motivated by a desire to surprise and be surprised. The program is co-produced by Lafayette Anticipation.

ABOUT PERFORMA:

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 encouraging new directions in performance for the twenty-first century. Since launching New York's first performance biennial, Performa 05, in 2005, the organization has solidified its identity as a commissioning and producing entity. As a "museum without walls," Performa provides important art historical heft to the field by showing the development of live art in all its forms from many different cultural perspectives reaching back to the Renaissance. The Performa Biennial is celebrated world wide as the first biennial to give specialized attention to this remarkable history, transforming the city of New York into the 'world capital of artists' performance' every other November. Performa attracts a national and international audience of more than 200,000 and receives more than 5,000,000 website hits during its three week run. In the last decade Performa has presented 592 performances, worked with 732 artists, and toured commissioned performances in 17 countries around the world.

The Curatorial Team for Performa 15 is led by RoseLee Goldberg and includes Performa curators Adrienne Edwards, Charles Aubin, and Mark Beasley, as well as curators from a consortium of more than 30 cultural institutions. Performa 15 is produced by Esa Nickle.

For more on Performa and its programs including the Performa Biennial, please visit <http://performa-arts.org/>.

Join the conversation: @PerformaNYC #Performa10Years

CONSORTIUM PARTNERS:

3-LD, A+E Studios, Aperture Foundation, Art in General, BAM, Bridget Donahue Gallery, Customs House, Danspace Project, El Museo del Barrio, French Cultural Services, Goethe Institute, Jewish Museum, Kai Matsumiya Gallery, Klaus von Nichtssagend Gallery, Marian Goodman Gallery, Martha Graham Studios, New York Society for Ethical Culture, Oberon, Participant Inc, Pioneer Works, Printed Matter, Ray Johnson Estate, Rhizome, Roulette, St. Barts Church, Swedish Cottage Marrionette Theatre, Swiss Institute, The Museum of Modern Art, Times Square Alliance, White Columns. Performa Consortium projects are curated, produced and presented by participating organizations and institutions.

BIENNIAL SUPPORTERS:

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