

For Immediate Release

October 15, 2015

NEW VISUAL ART PERFORMANCE

**PERFORMA ANNOUNCES FIRST ARCHITECTURE HUB COMPETITION
AND WINNER: FORWARD SLASH (/) ARCHITEKTUR**

New York — Performa, the internationally acclaimed organization dedicated to live performance across disciplines, announces their **first international competition for the design and realization of the Performa Hub and its winning recipient - Christoph a. Kumpusch and his office Forward slash (/) ARCHITEKTUR.**

Christoph a. Kumpusch and his office Forward slash (/) ARCHITEKTUR were selected from **12 talented finalists** including: The Bittertang Farm, Collective-LOK, CODA, Formlessfinder, HAO, Harrison Atelier, Most likely, NHDM, Only if, Siki Im, and Zeller & Moyer. The **Advisory Committee** for this competition was formed by Amale Andraos, Dean of Columbia University's GSAPP and Principal of WORKac; Noam Andrews, Board of Directors, Performa; Eva Franch i Gilabert, Executive Director, Storefront for Art and Architecture; RoseLee Goldberg, Founding Director, Performa; Steven Holl, founder, Steven Holl Architects; Bjarke Ingels, founder, BIG; Dakota Jackson, founder, Dakota Jackson Inc.; and Charles Renfro, Partner, Diller Scofidio + Renfro.

Christoph a. Kumpusch and his office Forward slash (/) ARCHITEKTUR will build their dynamic installation in **downtown Manhattan at 47 Walker Street.**

Performa 15 will take place November 1 – 22, 2015 at various locations across New York City. More information on the Hub Competition and the 12 finalists can be found at: performahub15.org

"Since Performa 09, Performa has had a strong architectural component, and the Hub has been the experimental locus for architecture that works as backdrop and stage, think-tank and gathering place for the arts community in New York," says **RoseLee Goldberg, founding director and curator of Performa.** "The competition process has allowed us to get closer to those architects who think about such activated architecture all the time. We're thrilled to work with Christoph and his team on a space whose shape and function will necessarily change hour by hour."

PERFORMA HUB:

Performa Hub, launched as a commission in 2009 with Markus Miessen of Studio Miessen, is **an architectural concept 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 that brings to life the conceptual underpinnings of the organization and serves as a proposal for a kind of architecture that draws the public in as participants—whether by directing them literally to various activities through seating arrangements or by moving walls to create different spaces including but not limited to a recording studio, box office, reading room, meeting space, lecture theater, performance and exhibition space, or a venue for food events.

The Hub is also the **home of the Performa Institute**, a platform for the research and educational components of the biennial and a laboratory for artistic experiments. Using this space for the research, exploration, and presentation of ideas with a focus on the study of history, art, and culture, this dynamic locus will stimulate an ongoing dialogue throughout the biennial with daily “master” classes, propositions, lectures, screenings, and selections of experimental performances and installations. The Performa Institute program will run daily throughout the biennial.

PERFORMA HUB COMPETITION:

Performa celebrates its 10th year with the first competition for the design and realization of the central Hub for Performa 15. After three successful architectural commissions with Berlin-based nOffice and international extensions reaching Santiago de Chile for past biennials, Performa has expanded this architectural commissioning process to include various points of view, igniting ideas about the close relationship between performance and architecture.

The twelve finalists represent emerging leaders in their field and were chosen based on their diverse backgrounds and approaches to architectural practice and theory. By emphasizing the exchange and diffusion of ideas between architecture and visual arts, this competition raises possibilities for future programming and interactions for curatorial research between disciplines.

ARCHITECT’S STATEMENT & [HUB] DETAILS:

“Performing Architecture’ requires structures and geometry defined by dynamic movement of theatrical elements,” **says Christoph A. Kumpusch, founding partner of Forward slash (/) ARCHITEKTUR.** “It also intensifies and underlines the gestures of the artists and the action of the performance to embody these new possibilities, or modes of participation, and to dramatize the activities themselves in appropriate, urban structures.”

Within the [hub], there is a blurring of performing architecture, performance architecture, and performed architecture as the space adapts, adjusts, and at certain times, precludes the movements and actions to be performed, creating a shift in not only the action, but the space itself.

The theater focuses on six core elements: **stage, curtain, set, audience, light, and performer.** Detaching the elements from their traditional configurations allows for constantly shifting orientations, accommodating innovative programs forming interactive relationships between audience and action, the performance and the performed. The theater becomes a form of spatial urbanism with organic functions and configurations.

By reversing traditional relationships, the theater will appear inside out — backstage becomes the audience, audience becomes the performance and so forth. The clarity of typologies and performed roles will be undermined and challenged.

1. **Stage** (Solid): the stage acts as a dynamic solid, able to move vertically in accordance with the program and other elements movements. The stage has two performance modes: as a platform for multiple simultaneous performances, and as a raised lounge table that creates a large workshop space.
2. **Curtain** (Plane): the curtain divides and subdivides space, retracts and expands to accommodate various modes of performance, and recreates the exciting moment when the closed curtain draws opens.
3. **Set** (Frame): the set reflects and projects the elements of performance, collapsing audience and action, allowing the audience to act and participate in the performance.
4. **Audience** (Void): The audience becomes part of the performance space inhabiting the void around the stage. Within this void, there can be two types of performance modes, the first as a Group, with stepped seating creating an elevated viewing platform for 40 people; dynamic in its ability to open, rotate, and

pivot in plan, it creates multiple entry points for performers and constantly shifts the relationship between audience and action. Secondly, as the Individual, where the mode of inhabitation exists as a movable stool and the audience is singular.

5. **Performer** (Point): The performers act as the force moving all elements, the energy of matter.
6. **Light** (Particle): Projecting and illuminating space, independent from—yet defining—form.

When combined, the elements create a fourth dimension of expressive temporality, a new dimension—or mode—of experience. The [hub], defined by the action and interaction of its elements, creates a landscape that changes over the course of time, constantly reconstructing the lost and last moments, inviting reflection on the performances held within its shifting zones.

ABOUT FORWARD SLASH (/) ARCHITEKTUR:

Christoph a. Kumpusch is a New York-based architect and Coordinator at Columbia University's GSAPP. He is the director of Forward slash (/) ARCHITEKTUR, a multidisciplinary practice founded in 2008 and the head of Back-slash, the experimental arm of Forward slash (/), investigating technology and material effects on form and tectonics. A theoretical project runs parallel to this work, identifying historical and cultural contexts triggered by detail innovation, as well as several publications. He was a Leonardo Da Vinci Fellow and a Rudolf M. Schindler Scholar, MAK Center Architect in Residence, USAA Scholar, National Collegiate Engineering Award-winner, and a 2013 and 2015 Graham Foundation Grantee. Kumpusch previously taught at the Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture at Cooper Union; Cornell University; The Ohio State University; Pratt Institute; and SCI-Arc. More information can be found at kumpusch.com.

Support behind the production of the Hub installation elements is provided by Argento and Tacet Creations.

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

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BIENNIAL SUPPORTERS:

Performa 15 gratefully acknowledges Lead Underwriting Support from Toby Devan Lewis, Leslie Ziff, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, The Australian Council for the Arts, The Ford Foundation, Lafayette Anticipation – Foundation d'entreprise Galeries Lafayette, Paris, Lambent Foundation. Major Sponsors includes Aviv, Marian Goodman Gallery and Via Art Fund. Supporting Sponsors include the Danish Arts Foundation, Galeria Luisa Strina and the National Endowment for the Arts. The Commissioning Fund is generously supported by Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, Renée and Robert Drake, Galerie Perrotin, Amy and Ronald Guttman, Barbara Hoffman, ICA Miami, The Keir Foundation, Bernard I., Lumpkin and Carmine D. Boccuzzi, PSM Gallery, Erica and Joseph Samuels, Fern and Leonard Tessler, and Suzanne Vielmetter – Los Angeles Projects. Additional support has been received from the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, FUSED, Institut Français a Paris, Young Kim, the Times Square Alliance and Sutton PR.

Special thanks to Aesop, Triumph Hotels (Exclusive Hotel Partner), Dig Inn, Goose Island Beer Co., HôtelAmericano, Neuhouse, Stella Artois, and SUTTON.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT:

Performa's annual programs and operations are supported by the Lambent Foundation, the David and Elaine Potter Foundation, The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and The New York State Council for the Arts, a State Agency. The Performa Institute and fellowship program is supported by Lambent Foundation, Ford Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and NYU Steinhardt Department of Art and Art Professions. Additional support provided by Artnet, Brooke Blashill, The Boston Foundation, Donor Advised Fund of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland grant recommended by Toby Devan Lewis, The Jedra Charitable Foundation, Lisa K. Lippman (in honor of Emily Glasser and William Sussman), Noam Andrews, Gregory Miller, and Anne Bergeron. Special thanks to the Performa Board of Directors, including Laurie Beckleman, Irving Benson, Todd Bishop, Amy Cappellazzo, Toby Devan Lewis (Honorary Chair), Wendy Fisher, Stephanie French, Emily Glasser, RoseLee Goldberg, Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn (Chair), Ronald Guttman, Barbara Hoffman, Rashid Johnson, Aditya Julka, Edward T. Nahem, and the Performa Producers, Curators and Visionaries Circles.

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