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DELaware ART MUSEUM SHOWCASES PERFORMANCE ART FOR THE FIRST TIME

Performance Now and Retro•active: Performance Art from 1964–1987

Wilmington, DE (May 29, 2014) – This summer, the Delaware Art Museum explores performance art for the first time in its exhibition history. Performance art is a term developed in the mid-1960s to describe live presentations by artists, and it has advanced over the past 50 years to incorporate dance, music, theater, technology, and audience participation and to address aesthetic, personal, social, economic, and political concerns. Today performance art has arguably become one of the most significant forms of artistic expression of the 20th and early 21st centuries. To celebrate this artistic movement, the Delaware Art Museum presents Retro•active: Performance Art from 1964–1987 June 14 – September 21, 2014 and the traveling exhibition Performance Now July 12 – September 21, 2014

Curated by RoseLee Goldberg, Founding Director and Curator of Performa, Performance Now showcases a selection of works by 21 artists from a vast repository of performance art from around the world since 2000, a period that has witnessed an exponential growth in the field. Bringing together some of the most significant practitioners today, the exhibition surveys critical and experimental currents in performance art internationally, featuring works by Marina Abramović, Jérôme Bel, Spartacus Chetwynd, William Kentridge, and Clifford Owens, among others.

In conjunction with this traveling exhibition, Retro•active: Performance Art from 1964–1987 offers a historical view of performance art and was curated by Margaret Winslow, Associate Curator for Contemporary Art at the Delaware Art Museum. Six groundbreaking works by artists Chris Burden, Dan Graham, Joan Jonas, Paul McCarthy, Yoko Ono, and Carolee Schneemann trace this pivotal moment in the development of the art form and provide a context for the contemporary performance art seen in Performance Now.
“Performance Now is the first major survey of performance art from the 21st century, curated by the preeminent scholar in the field,” explains Winslow. “Hosting this exhibition gives the Delaware Art Museum the opportunity to share this significant art form with the region and to highlight connections between the Museum's contemporary American art collection and artists working today.”

Both exhibitions include objects, ephemera, sound, and video displayed through large wall projections and monitors, revealing how live performance is captured by artists and transformed into new work that contains the power and content of the original work.

Related Programs and Events

Performance Now Members Preview
Friday, July 11 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. | Members and their guests only

Experience performance art at the start of the 21st century with this exciting preview event! Members and their guests are invited to enjoy live entertainment by JD3, a Wilmington based keyboard trio with deep roots in Philadelphia jazz; delicious tastings; and a special gallery talk by Curator RoseLee Goldberg at 6:30 p.m. Free for Members, $20 each for guests of Members.

Art is After Dark: Performance Art
Friday July, 18 | 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Celebrate the new exhibition Performance Now with live performance art and a hula hoop contest! Poet, curator, and performance artist Jaamil Olawale Kosoko will give a tour of the exhibition in his alter-ego, Jerimiah, and Melissa Diane will perform works that include movement, text, and audience interaction. Free for Members and Friday Night Studio Workshop Participants, $8 in advance or $10 at the door for Non-Members.

About RoseLee Goldberg

Goldberg’s seminal study, Performance Art: From Futurism to the Present (first published in 1979 and now in its third edition) is regarded as the leading text for understanding the development of the genre and has been translated into more languages (including Russian, Chinese, Croatian, French, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, and Spanish) than any other book of its kind. When director of the Royal College of Art (RCA) Gallery in London, Ms. Goldberg established a program that pioneered an integrative approach to curating exhibitions, performance, and symposia, directly involving the various departments of the RCA in all aspects of the exhibitions program. As curator at the Kitchen in New York she continued to advocate for multi-disciplinary practices to have equal prominence by establishing the
exhibition space, a video viewing room, and a performance series. Most recently, her vision in the creation of Performa has set a precedent for performance art that is now impacting museum programming and diverse audiences across the U.S. and abroad.

**Sponsors and Organizers**

*Performance Now* is a traveling exhibition produced by Independent Curators International (ICI), New York, and Performa, New York. The curator for the exhibition is RoseLee Goldberg, Artistic Director and Founder of Performa. The exhibition and tour are made possible, in part, by grants from the Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, and the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; the ICI Board of Trustees; and donors to ICI's Access Fund.

Support for *Performance Now* and *Retro•active: Performance Art from 1964 –1987* is provided by grants from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency dedicated to nurturing and supporting the arts in Delaware, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.

**About Performa**

Founded in 2004 by art historian and curator RoseLee Goldberg, Performa is the leading international organization dedicated to exploring the critical role of live visual art performance in the history of the 20th century and to generating new directions for the 21st century, engaging artists and audiences through experimentation, innovation, and collaboration. Performa’s unique year-round commissioning, touring, and education programs, involving all disciplines, culminate in the internationally acclaimed Performa biennial, which together forge a new course for contemporary art and culture. In 2005, Performa launched New York’s first-ever biennial dedicated to visual art performance, *Performa 05*. The fifth biennial, *Performa 13*, was presented last November. The Performa Institute, a platform for the research and educational components of Performa, presents lectures, panel discussions and workshops on an ongoing basis that explore critical issues surrounding performance and its history across disciplines, including dance, film, music, and architecture.

**About ICI**

Independent Curators International (ICI) produces traveling exhibitions, events, publications, and training opportunities for diverse audiences around the world. Established in 1975 and headquartered in New York, ICI is a hub that provides access to the people and practices that are key to current developments in the field, inspiring fresh ways of seeing and contextualizing contemporary art.
In 2013, 10 ICI exhibitions have been presented by 37 venues in 19 countries and 13 US states. Sixty-six curators and artists have contributed to ICI’s talks, public programs, and research initiatives; and 94 curators from over 33 countries and eight U.S. states have participated in the Curatorial Intensives, ICI’s short-course professional training programs.

ICI

About the Delaware Art Museum
Founded in 1912, the Delaware Art Museum is best known for its large collection of works by Wilmington native Howard Pyle and fellow American illustrators, a major collection of British Pre-Raphaelite art, and urban landscapes by John Sloan and his circle. Visitors can also enjoy the outdoor Copeland Sculpture Garden and a number of special exhibitions throughout the year.

The Delaware Art Museum, located at 2301 Kentmere Parkway, Wilmington, DE 19806, is open Wednesday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Sunday noon – 4:00 p.m. Admission fees are charged as follows: Adults (19–59) $12, Seniors (60+) $10, Students (with valid ID) $6, Youth (7–18) $6, and Children (6 and under) free. Admission fees are waived every Sunday thanks to support from generous individuals. For more information, call 302-571-9590 or 866-232-3714 (toll free), or visit the website at delart.org.