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**PERFORMA ANNOUNCES  
ARCHIVE EXHIBITION, BENEFIT OPENING NIGHT  
AND NEW WEBSITE**

**ARCHIVE EXHIBITION AND OPENING NIGHT BENEFIT**

**From November 10-13 Performa will present *LIVE: The Performa Archive* hosted in collaboration with LGDR (3 East 89th Street), an exhibition and performance series that will be drawn entirely from the archive—including the performances, some of which have been made available, in collaboration with the artists, for acquisition by public institutions and private individuals. *LIVE* will be a “moving exhibition,” highlighting past works from the Performa biennials in a kinetic, ever-changing environment that will “perform” the archive and activate drawings, writings, correspondence, and documentation as connecting points between objects and performances from Performa’s history. Exhibition performances from the archive will include Performa commissions and projects by Edgar Arceneaux, Elmgreen & Dragset, Ryan Gander, Michelle Handelman, Madeline Hollander, Christian Jankowski, Rashid Johnson, Joan Jonas, Wyatt Kahn, Mike Kelley, William Kentridge, Jon Kessler, Ragnar Kjartansson, Liz Magic Laser, Eva & Franco Mattes, Dave McKenzie, Ryan McNamara, Shirin Neshat, Kelly Nipper, Clifford Owens, Yvonne Rainer, Mika Rottenberg, Luigi Russolo, Tschabalala Self, Kemang Wa Lehulere, and others. The exhibition will also feature photography by Performa’s archival photographer and NYC legend Paula Court.**

“To most people, other than academics and researchers, archives are rather dusty places,” says RoseLee Goldberg, Founding Director and Chief Curator of Performa, “but Performa has devised an entirely new approach to the archive as a living, inspiring source of contemporary cultural history. An online, digital platform, it will be a curriculum-building reference, a resource for artists, students and the general public, and an exciting place for intellectual and visual discovery. With *LIVE!*, Performa invents a new kind of exhibition, one that allows for the contemplation of live performance-as-exhibition, and allows for viewers to experience ephemeral work on repeat.”

**The opening night benefit on November 10 will bring together Performa artists and supporters in celebration of a transformational moment in the organization’s history.** Opening night will include audio and video installations, a special Futurist dinner-performance, and live performances by Elmgreen & Dragset, Ryan Gander, Michelle Handelman, Kelly Nipper, Yvonne Rainer, and Luigi Russolo’s Noise Machines.

The evening will **raise funds for public access to Performa’s extraordinary archive—more than 700 commissioned and special projects—by remarkable artists from around the world**, presented in an exciting new approach to archives as an accessible educational tool and extended platform for artists’ work and ideas.

**For the first time ever, Performa will partner with commissioned artists to offer both art works generated from Performa Commissions and performances for sale.** Editions and artworks by Edgar Arceneaux, Liz Magic Laser, Eva & Franco Mattes, Dave McKenzie, Ryan McNamara, Adam Pendleton, and Clifford Owens. Performances from Yvonne Rainer, Ryan Gander, Rashid Johnson, Wyatt Kahn, and Kelly Nipper will be offered for sale to institutions or collectors. Special Performa editions of objects, posters, and video by artists including Edgar Arceneaux, Liz Magic Laser, Eva & Franco Mattes, Dave McKenzie, Ryan McNamara, Adam Pendleton, and Clifford Owens will also be available, with special thanks to the artists for their support in building the archive of the future.

*LIVE: The Performa Archive* will be open November 11-14. The exhibition has been organized by the Performa team led by Esa Nickle and Nia Nottage in collaboration with Darling Green and Andrew Blackley with support from LGDR.

### **Opening Night Benefit**

November 10, 6 – 11 pm

[Tickets](#) \$250 for cocktails and \$1,000 for dinner

Dinners will be hosted by Derrick Adams, Sanford Biggers, Wyatt Kahn, John Kessler, Liz Magic Laser, Marilyn Minter, Jennifer Rubell, Jacolby Satterwhite, Tschabalala Self, and Laurie Simmons.

### **Archive Exhibition and Performances**

November 11-13, 11 am – 6 pm

Free and open to the public

## **FIRST EVER PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE PERFORMA ARCHIVE**

This fall, Performa will debut a new website, the **Performa Archive, which offers access to its extensive holdings of live performance and contemporary art for the first time.** Featuring the work of more than seven hundred artists from across the United States and around the world, the Performa Archive is both a repository of documentation of Performa's twenty-year history as well as an adventurous entryway to the creative thinking behind Performa's commissions of new performance for the 21st century.

The public archive will be the cornerstone of Performa's media and content distribution, linking together Performa's collection: TV and radio broadcasting, magazines and publications, live-streaming as well as innovative applications of social media, virtual reality, and NFTs. The archive comprises thousands of hours of original video, sound recordings, photographs, artists' drawings and writings. Beyond artworks, the archive contains records of physical and digital ephemera, correspondence with curators, interviews, and research material to document the production processes of Performa's renowned commissions. This new digital resource also contains work presented during the Performa Biennials by a consortium of New York museums and non-profit spaces including MoMA, The Guggenheim, The Studio Museum in Harlem, Swiss Institute, Artists Space, The Kitchen, Participant Inc., White Columns, Art in General, Performance Space New York, Danspace Project, and others. Access to the Performa Archive will be an extraordinary resource for artists, arts professionals, educators, students, and the general public alike as well as a transformational tool for the organization.

The new Performa Archive access website is supported by Outset Partners.

Candida Gertler OBE, Co-Founder, Co-Director and Trustee, said on behalf of the Outset Partners: “Building upon a long-standing relationship of support, Outset awarded Performa the prestigious Outset Partners’ Transformative Grant in 2021, the largest fund from a collective of philanthropists in the world. Performa is markedly emboldened in its approach to creating access to high-quality performance, creative exchange and enriching our collective cultural history. Outset has always been at the forefront of championing culture at its very core - the artists, the institutions, the thinkers and supporters. We are delighted to have supported this innovative project that continues to grow and flourish as we witness Performa’s crucial role in bringing live performance into the public sphere.”

## **ABOUT OUTSET**

Established in 2003, Outset Contemporary Art Fund is the leading international, independent charity supporting innovative art projects that engage the widest possible audiences. With a presence in nine countries, the charity has raised over £14 million worldwide in support of the creative ecosystem. Outset is recognized for creating influential models of responsive arts philanthropy with its innovative public-private schemes and initiatives. Practicing catalytic philanthropy means not only offering crucial funding support but also activating networks and initiating new relationships and partnerships.

## **ABOUT DARLING GREEN**

Darling Green studio combines research and project development with an open dialogue on the potential of the exhibition form. Darling Green’s versatile approach focuses on process over predetermined frameworks, conceptualizing art exhibitions in experimental and innovative ways.

## **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 to 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, and as a “museum without walls” providing important art historical heft to the field, showing the development of live art in all its forms and from many different cultural perspectives, reaching back to the Renaissance and beyond. The Performa Biennial is celebrated worldwide 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 October/November. Performa attracts a national and international audience of more than 200,000 and receives more than 5,000,000 hits on its website during its run of three weeks. In the last decade, Performa has presented 592 performances, worked with 732 artists, and has toured commissioned performances in 17 countries around the world.

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