

14 ROOMS

14 Rooms – Live art by 14 celebrated international artists presented during

Fondation Beyeler, Art Basel and Theater Basel are delighted to announce '14 Rooms', a major live-art exhibition to be staged in Basel from June 14 to 22, 2014. Curated by Klaus Biesenbach and Hans Ulrich Obrist, the exhibition will feature performative works by artists including Marina Abramović, Jennifer Allora & Guillermo Calzadilla, Ed Atkins, Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster, Damien Hirst, Joan Jonas, Laura Lima, Bruce Nauman, Otobong Nkanga, Roman Ondák, Yoko Ono, Tino Sehgal, Santiago Sierra, and Xu Zhen. Two more works join the architectural environment conceived by Herzog & de Meuron. Jordan Wolfson's acting as an epilogue, John Baldessari's as an archival documentation. Both challenge the very notions of live art and the human experience as set out for '14 Rooms'.

Curators Klaus Biesenbach, Director of MoMA PS1 and Chief Curator at Large at The Museum of Modern Art, and Hans Ulrich Obrist, Co-director of Exhibitions and Programmes and Director of International Projects at the Serpentine Gallery, have invited 14 international artists to each activate a room, exploring the relationship between space, time and physicality with an artwork whose 'material' is a human being. Giving visitors an insight into a more performative and interactive practice, visitors will encounter a new situation within each of the 14 rooms, engaging in a diverse series of immersive and intimate experiences.

Conceived specifically for Basel, Ed Atkins, Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster and Otobong Nkanga will create new works for the show. Alongside these world premieres, historical piece by artists such as Bruce Nauman and Yoko Ono will be presented for the first time at 14 Rooms and other rarely seen works by acclaimed artists from around the world will be brought to Basel.

'14 Rooms' will include Jennifer Allora and Guillermo Calzadilla's 'Revolving Door' (2011), in which a group of dancers spontaneously form a line and begin to rotate around the room in a circular motion, sweeping up visitors as they move around the space.

In his exploration of social boundaries and socio-cultural inequalities, Santiago Sierra places a succession of war veterans, from varied past conflicts, standing facing one corner of a 5-5-meter room and instructed to only move from their post once solemnly replaced by another veteran mimicking the changing of the guard.

Damien Hirst's important early work 'Hans, Georg' (1992), consisting of a rotating cast of identical twins sitting below two of his own identical dot paintings, will be restaged at the show under a new title.

Marina Abramović's 'Luminosity' (1997) places a performer on a bicycle seat fixed onto a wall bathed in bright light, exploring themes of loneliness and spiritual elevation.

Roman Ondák's 'Swap' (2011) asks a performer to choose an object as they sit behind a table, and when visitors enter the room they are then able to swap the object with anything else they are willing to exchange, while in Chinese artist Xu Zhen's 'In Just a Blink of an Eye' (2005) a body floats in mid-air as if frozen, defying both time and gravity, and making the audience question reality and reflect on the work's seeming impossibility.

Artists and the curators will be attending the opening of the exhibition.

While the artists themselves are not present in these works, they instruct performers on how to act out their specifications, resulting in over 70 performers – primarily from the Basel region – taking part in the exhibition. '14 Rooms' will be staged in Hall 3 of Messe

Basel in walking distance from Messeplatz. The exhibition will open to the public ahead of Art Basel on Saturday, June 14 and will stay open until Sunday, June 22.

'14 Rooms' is a collaboration between Fondation Beyeler, Art Basel and Theater Basel, and will be accompanied by an education program conceived and run by Fondation Beyeler.

Originally commissioned as '11 Rooms' by Manchester International Festival, the International Arts Festival RUHRTRIENNALE 2012-2014 and Manchester Art Gallery, the project was shown as '11 Rooms' at Manchester International Festival in July 2011, as '12 Rooms' at the International Arts Festival RUHRTRIENNALE 2012-2014 and as '13 Rooms' by Kaldor Public Art Projects at Pier 2/3 in Sydney's Walsh Bay in April 2013. For each edition, the artists list partially changed.

Ann-Christin Rommen, Marc Bättig are the Producers of the exhibition and Samuel Leuenberger is the Associate Curator.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a book published by Hatje Cantz. The English/German edition will be available to purchase onsite as well as through bookshops.

Further information on '14 Rooms' is available at 14rooms.net.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Fondation Beyeler

Inaugurated in 1997 and set in an idyllic park, the museum is the work of the star architect Renzo Piano. The Fondation Beyeler owes its special appeal to its combination of a world class collection comprising 250 masterpieces of modern, contemporary and ethnographic art, fascinating architecture, beautiful natural surroundings and temporary exhibitions of modern and contemporary art that match the highest international standards. Current and upcoming exhibitions and cooperations: Odilon Redon, Daros Latinamerica Collection, Gerhard Richter, 14 Rooms, Alexander Calder, Gustave Courbet, Peter Doig. For further information please visit: fondationbeyeler.ch

About Art Basel

Art Basel stages the world's premier art shows for Modern and contemporary works, sited in Basel, Miami Beach, and Hong Kong. Defined by its host city and region, each show is unique, which is reflected in its participating galleries, artworks presented, and the content of parallel programming produced in collaboration with local institutions for each edition. In addition to ambitious stands featuring leading galleries from around the world, each show's singular exhibition sectors spotlight the latest developments in the visual arts, offering visitors new ideas, new inspiration and new contacts in the art world. Art Basel's Lead Partner is UBS. For further information please visit: artbasel.com

About Theater Basel

The Theater Basel is Switzerland's largest multipurpose theatre. Situated in the trinational metropolitan region it offers a broad and challenging programme of opera, drama, and ballet, as well as productions for children and young people. In the acting and musical theatre section, Theater Basel intends on promoting classical and traditional works as it is to present contemporary plays and modern opera and musical theatre including world premieres and German and Swiss debut performances to offer a wide variety and excitement in the repertoire. The Theater Basel offers a platform for experimental projects and is also keen to encourage young talents. It stands for a theatre with a local base and far reaching connections, lively, enthralling, traditional and innovative. For further information please visit: theater-basel.ch

14 Rooms Tickets

Day Ticket (return entry): CHF 18

Reduced Day Ticket for Students/Seniors: CHF 12

Groups of 10 people or more: CHF 15 per person

Combination Ticket Art Basel (available to purchase onsite only): CHF 55

Tickets are available from 14rooms.net

Important Dates for Media**14 Rooms Press View**

Friday, June 13, 2014, from 10am to 2pm

14 Rooms Public opening dates and hours

Saturday, June 14 to Sunday, June 22, 2014

Daily from 10am to 7pm, apart from Monday, June 16, 2014, from 10am to 5pm.

Media information and images can be downloaded directly from 14rooms.net/media.

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