



For Immediate Release

PERFORMA ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL NORWEGIAN PAVILION WITHOUT WALLS

New initiative established to encourage creative ties between US and associate country to launch during Performa 13

New York, NY – Performa announces details of its Norwegian Pavilion Without Walls, implemented in collaboration with the Royal Norwegian Consulate General of New York as part of Performa 13, the visual art performance biennial in New York City (November 1-24, 2013). Dedicated to live performance across disciplines, Performa operates as both an urban and international project, engaging artists and audiences through experimentation, innovation, and collaboration. The Pavilion Without Walls, modeled on the idea of the Venice Biennale’s pavilions, is a new initiative to forge strong partnerships between New York and countries around the world to foster new and deeper levels of cultural and artistic exchange. Performa’s inaugural program with Norway is a distillation of some of the most salient aesthetic and intellectual conversations that emerged during months of research, including visits to Bergen and Oslo, plus meetings with artists, curators, writers, and directors of cultural institutions both in Norway and abroad. The initial results—including commissioned performances, concerts, and installations—provide an exciting new platform for international exchange within the Biennial.

The Norwegian Pavilion seeks to highlight cultural producers of the Scandinavian art scene in addition to artists with national ties to Norway or whose work carries thematic links to the Nordic nation. As part of the Pavilion, Performa has also

specially commissioned new work to be presented as part of the Performa 13 biennial. With this new endeavor, Performa hopes to draw further attention to the country's cultural institutions and open the pipelines for artists and curators both into and out of Norway, encouraging a new mode of cultural osmosis.

Sissel Breie, the former Consul General of Norway in New York, commented, "With this new program, Performa will foster cultural exchange in a real and exciting way, and we hope it will strengthen the bonds between artists and institutions in New York and Norway for years to come."

For the inaugural year, Performa and the Royal Norwegian Consulate General of New York have identified a group of cultural partners across Norway that align with the themes and concerns of this year's Biennial and who would additionally benefit from the Performa staff's experience and expertise in presenting performance. Partner institutions include Kunsthall Oslo, Unge Kunstneres Samfund, Henie-Onstad Art Centre, Kunsthall Stavanger, and Hordaland Art Centre. In Performa 13, the Pavilion places emphasis both on exceptional new work by artists and on creating strong links between cultural producers in Norway and the United States. The collaboration has included a close working relationship with the young curator Randi Grov Berger, who has assisted Performa in the planning and execution of the Pavilion.

In the process of creating the Norwegian Pavilion, Performa curators and staff found a particular wealth of sound and vocal artists in Norway, inspiring one of the themes of Performa 13: *The Voice*. This subject will be presented from a variety of angles: the disembodied voice, the voice as instrument, as sound and music and as a platform for the language of persuasion, coercion and violence. Additionally, many of the works have a site-specific focus, an example of how many artists that the Performa team has encountered in the years of research turn their attention to creating work that is responsive to a particular context and space.

NORWEGIAN PAVILION WITHOUT WALLS PERFORMANCES & EVENTS:

For Performa 13, **Tori Wrånes** (b. 1978, Kristiansand; Norway) will produce a new composition and site-specific musical work for New York City. Wrånes works primarily with the voice and sculptural installation, combining the two in her dynamic live performances. Her visual concerts are inspired by a childhood of studying sound in nature during walks with her ornithologist father. From there, she has developed sound and imagery at the same time, creating a pseudo-synesthesia.

Voice is the Original Instrument considers the historic and contemporary use of voice in performance. The series of four events will include focuses on avant-pop, female voices, male voices, and the kings of screamers, featuring artists such as Jenny Hval and Maja Ratkje. Curated by Mark Beasley, this concert series is presented in collaboration with Henie-Onstad Art Centre, Oslo.

Performa Radio for Performa 13 builds on the strong tradition of radio plays in Scandinavian countries and further explores the theme of The Voice. Curated by Anne Szefer Karlsen and Aaron Schuster, Performa Radio is presented in collaboration with Hordaland Art Center, Bergen.

Marthe Ramm Fortun (b.1978, Oslo) will make a site-specific performance for Performa 13. Her works are tied intricately to the space they are performed within, pulling from the architecture and history of the location. This new work is being created in collaboration with Unge Kunstneres Samfund (UKS), a space founded and run by artists in Oslo.

Sculptor and video artist **Jumana Manna** (b. 1987, New Jersey) examines the construction of human identity in relation to historical narratives and subcultures. Performa 13 will feature the American premiere of *The Goodness Regime*, a documentary exploring the myths and images that have enabled an understanding of Norway as a nation of peace and benevolence. Performa's partner on the Manna project, Kunsthall Oslo, commissioned the film and will host its world premiere in August.

Performa and Kunsthall Stavanger will collaborate to present **Lina Viste Grønli** on the occasion of the Kunsthall's grand opening in November. The new performance by Grønli that will celebrate this occasion was curated by Hanna Mugaas, director of Kunsthall Stavanger.

Conceived by composer and visual artist **Pedro Gómez- Egaña** and curator **Randi Grov Berger**, *FLAGS: Collaboration with Entrée* will feature flags designed by five Performa artists throughout New York City. While the project deals with one of the current themes this year's Performa Biennial, citizenship, it also asks key questions on identity and nationality relevant to the broader concept of the *Pavilions Without Walls* initiative.

More details about all the Norwegian Pavilion events will be released at the press conference in September. All events are subject to change.

In addition to the Norwegian Pavilion, Performa 13 will also feature a Polish Pavilion. The biennial's fifth edition, Performa 13 takes place at more than 60 venues across New York City.

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 twentieth century and to generating new directions for the twenty-first century, engaging artists and audiences through experimentation, innovation, and collaboration. Performa's unique commissioning,

touring, and year-round education programs, involving all disciplines, forge a new course for contemporary art and culture, and culminate in the Performa biennial in New York City every other November. In 2005, Performa launched the first-ever biennial dedicated to visual art performance, Performa 05, which was then followed by Performa 07 (2007), Performa 09 (2009), and Performa 11 (2011).

Since its inception, Performa has operated as both an urban and international project demonstrating how organizations can collaborate to present major arts programs that are both artistically innovative and internationally relevant. Performa has developed partnerships with major international institutions, commissioning, producing, and touring work from the Performa program from the very beginning. 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 visual art, dance, film, music, design, and architecture.

For more information, please visit www.performa-arts.org.

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