



For Immediate Release

## PERFORMA ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL POLISH 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 Polish Pavilion Without Walls, implemented in collaboration with the Adam Mickiewicz Institute, Center for Contemporary Art Ujazdowski Castle, Polish Cultural Institute New York, and Crikoteka as part of Performa 13, the visual art performance biennial in New York City (November 1–24, 2013). Dedicated to live performance across the 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 Poland is a distillation of some of the most salient aesthetic and intellectual conversations that emerged during months of research, including visits to Krakow and Warsaw, plus meetings with artists, curators, writers, and directors of cultural institutions both in Poland and abroad. The initial results—including commissioned performances, concerts, and installations—provide an exciting new platform for international exchange within the Biennial.

The Polish Pavilion seeks to highlight cultural producers and artists with national ties to Poland or whose work carries thematic links to the Polish nation. The Pavilion includes new work specially commissioned by Performa to be presented in the 2013 biennial. With this new endeavor, Performa hopes to draw attention to the country's cultural institutions and open the pipelines for artists and curators both into and out of Poland, encouraging a new mode of cultural osmosis.

Performa and the Polish Cultural Institute New York have identified a group of cultural partners across Poland who align with the themes of this year's Biennial and who would benefit from the Performa staff's expertise in presenting performance. Partner institutions include Adam Mickiewicz Institute, CCA Ujazdowski Castle, and Cricoteka. The Pavilion places emphasis both on exceptional new work by artists and on creating strong links between cultural producers in Poland and the United States.

Through the process of creating the Polish Pavilion, Performa curators found that many artists in Poland were concerned with articulating the relationship between contemporary aesthetics, ritual, and history, as well as the contemporary winds of change in politics, economics, and technology. This informed one of the primary themes for Performa 13: citizenship. The projects selected for the Polish Pavilion represent Performa's longstanding vision that acknowledges the role artists play in stimulating social change and championing social justice. Drawing on this history and on the artists and institutions encountered in Poland, Performa 13 will consider recent social and political shifts and the various ways in which established and emerging international artists choose to address them.

### **POLISH PAVILION WITHOUT WALLS PERFORMANCES & EVENTS:**

For his first large-scale public work for New York City, Polish artist **Paweł Althamer** will stage events at BiBA, a local bar and restaurant in Brooklyn, from which one can see the shimmering Manhattan skyline across the East River. In line with Althamer's ongoing interest in citizenship, collaboration, marginalization, and working outside the usual confines of contemporary art, the artist will arrange events and interventions in collaboration with his sons: Szymon, a Polish chef, will design the bar menu, and Bruno, an artist, will run workshops. *Biba Performa* seeks to bring together the many communities that call Williamsburg and Greenpoint home. Presented in partnership with CCA Ujazdowski Castle.

Operating at the intersection of art and politics, **Akademia Ruchu** (the Academy of Movement), has been the sounding board of Poland's political life since its creation in 1974 in Warsaw. Merging art and life with hundreds of happenings, anonymous interventions in the public realm, performances in theaters, and political actions, this collective—consisting of artists Janusz Bałdyga, Jolanta Krukowska, Cezary Marczał, Zbigniew Olkiewicz, Jan Pieniążek, Jarosław Żwirblis, and Krzysztof Żwirblis, with artistic director Wojciech Krukowski—has fostered four decades of

sharp reflection on communist and post-communist Poland. For Performa 13 they will present both a series of performances onstage and new happenings created specifically for Times Square. Akademia Ruchu's presentations will be accompanied by an exhibition of the collective's performance history. Presented in partnership with CCA Ujazdowski Castle and The Polish Cultural Institute New York.

Two members of the *enfants terribles* group Penerstwo, **Radek Szlaga and Konrad Smoleński**, will create an immersive and rowdy installation that literalizes the confusing experience felt moving between homeland and Promised Land. Szlaga and Smoleński will collaborate with Dean Spunt, a Los Angeles-based noise musician and member of the band No Age. Presented in collaboration with the Adam Mickiewicz Institute.

Following her celebrated installation at the 13th Venice Architecture Biennale, Polish sculptor **Katarzyna Krakowiak** will perform an architectural intervention that seeks to honor the past and present of a New York City landmark. Combining an original score created from the acoustic modeling of the space and small "knockers," mechanisms that literally cause the walls to vibrate, Krakowiak's installation will manifest as a locational homage. The site of her project will be announced in October.

The Polish Pavilion at Performa 13 developed through a close working relationship with the producer Monika Rendzner, who assisted Performa in the planning and execution of the Pavilion.

All events are subject to change.

In addition to the Polish Pavilion, Performa 13 will also feature a Norwegian 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](http://www.performa-arts.org).

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