

For Immediate Release



Francis Picabia, figure for *Relâche*, Paris, 1924.  
Indian ink, 18 x 14.5 cm

**PERFORMA PRESENTS**  
**RELÂCHE – THE PARTY**  
*An evening of Surrealism derived from 1920's Paris*  
*honoring art historian and curator Milly Glimcher*  
**November 1, 2012**

New York, NY, October 2, 2012 – **Performa** announces *Relâche – The Party*, an elegant celebration of the Surrealist artists of 1920's Paris to take place on **Thursday, November 1, 2012** at **Stage 37** in New York City. Paying tribute to Francis Picabia and Erik Satie as co-organizers of the original *Relâche* performance in 1924, the evening will provide a multi-sensorial experience showcasing the beauty and significance of the Surrealist period to serve as the historical point of reference for Performa 13. Co-hosted by **Julie Blakeslee and John Spong, Toby Devan Lewis, Andrea and Marc Glimcher, RoseLee Goldberg, Wendy Fisher, Amanda and Glenn Fuhrman, Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn, and Cindy Sherman**, *Relâche – The Party* will be the highlight event of many to precede the Performa Biennial's fifth edition in fall 2013.

The November gala will pay tribute to **Francis Picabia** and **Erik Satie**, co-organizers of the *Relâche* performance in 1924. The dazzling spectacle was a seminal performance for the Surrealist movement, which was founded in Paris by a small group of writers and artists who sought to channel the unconscious as a means to unlock the power of the imagination. Designed by Picabia with music by Satie, the show's title plays with the term "relâche," often used by theaters to indicate a cancelled performance or closed venue. Inspired by the movement and the ballet, Performa's gala will showcase newly commissioned dance, film, and music performances throughout the night. Cocktails at 6pm will be followed by dinner, toasts, and a live auction at 7pm. Dancing complete with a special live performance will follow the dinner beginning at 9pm. The food and drinks will be planned and executed with New York chefs, and will feature innovative and unusual ingredients and interactive presentation. The décor and set will feature handmade original works created by artists especially for the evening. Guests will also be encouraged to wear black and white *haute couture*.

"I take every opportunity I can to instill the excitement of performance history in people's imagination. This latest version takes people into an era which is incredibly rich for all of us now. We're asking people to consider 'What is our surrealism? What can we do to ignite our 21<sup>st</sup> century imagination?' Everyone who comes to *Relâche – The Party* provides an answer," says **Performa Founding Director and Curator RoseLee Goldberg**.

The evening will also pay tribute to honoree **Milly Glimcher**, art historian and curator, for her exhibition "Happenings: New York, 1958–1963." Presented at the Pace Gallery in early 2012 in New York, it was the first exhibition to document the origins and historical development of the transient yet pivotal movement, featuring more than thirty of the original Happenings and the contributions of the main participants: Jim Dine, Simone Forti, Red Grooms, Allan Kaprow, Claes Oldenburg, Lucas Samaras, Carolee Schneemann, and Robert Whitman. Ms. Glimcher brought together for the first time more than 300 photographs by five photographers who witnessed and documented the performances, including many photos that have never before been seen publicly. Rare film footage and original ephemera related to the Happenings, including outlines, sketches, scripts, press releases, announcements and posters, were also on view. The exhibition was accompanied by an illustrated book by Ms. Glimcher published by The Monacelli Press.

Proceeds from *Relâche – The Party* will support Performa Commissions and Performa 13, the fifth edition of the international biennial of new visual art performance, to take place throughout New York City from November 1-24, 2013. The multidisciplinary biennial takes place in more than 80 venues throughout the city, including galleries, museums, theaters, concert halls, movie theaters, exclusive bars, restaurants, and unusual and familiar outdoor locations. Attracting more than 40,000 attendees each edition, the Performa Biennial has been included in "Top Art Events of the Year" lists in *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *New York Magazine*, *Artforum*, and other publications.

## PAST PERFORMA GALAS

*Relâche-The Party* is the fourth in a series of Performa benefits that are based on historical themes. *The White on White Party* (2006) was influenced by Fluxus and included recreations of works by Fluxus artists, including Yoko Ono, Benjamin Patterson, and Milan Knížák, as well as performances by My Barbarian, Brendan Fowler, DJ Spooky, and Cynthia Hopkins. *The Metal Ball* (2008) was inspired by the Bauhaus's 1929 *Metallic Festival*, organized by Oskar Schlemmer and his students, when the famous art school was decorated entirely in metallic colors and materials and guests reveled in an exuberant fête of music, light, and dancing. *The Red Party* (2010) was a celebration of artists and their ability to inspire action with a playful nod to the artists of the Russian Revolution. The centerpiece and performance stage was a re-interpretation of the iconic stage designed by Liubov Popova for Meyerhold's 1922 production of "The Magnanimous Cuckhold." Other now legendary Performa events include: *Creation* - the opening night celebration of Performa 09 by Jennifer Rubell and the *Futurist Banquet* in February 2009, prepared by Chef Matthew Weingarten using recipes from "The Futurist Cookbook."

## 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 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). Performa will present its fifth biennial, Performa 13, in November 2013.

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. 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.

For more information, visit [www.performa-arts.org](http://www.performa-arts.org).

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