



**For Immediate Release**

**February 24, 2016**

**PERFORMA ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD LEADERSHIP AND INTRODUCES  
A NEWLY FORMED ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**New York** — Performa, the internationally acclaimed organization dedicated to live performance across disciplines, is pleased to announce new leadership and changes within its Board of Directors and the introduction of a newly-formed Advisory Council comprised of experts across various disciplines that will work alongside Founding Director and Curator RoseLee Goldberg to further strengthen Performa and its initiatives as Performa enters its second decade.

New leadership changes to the Board of Directors include: Philanthropist, Independent Art Consultant, and Performa's founding patron and honorary chair **Toby Devan Lewis** has been appointed to Board Chair; New York-based artist, **Rashid Johnson**, who joined the board in 2014 has been appointed to Vice Chair; and New York-based artist **Shirin Neshat**, who has been newly appointed to the Board of Directors. Lewis takes over from **Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn**, who served as Board Chair for six years and will remain on the Board of Directors. **Edward Tyler Nahem**, gallery owner and theater and independent film producer, also joined the board in 2014.

The Performa Advisory Council has been created as a think tank for Performa to provide support for the on-going programming and vision of the organization. Each member of this carefully selected group is considered an invaluable advocate for Performa and is dedicated to supporting the organization's mission and promoting innovative ideas that translate 21<sup>st</sup>-century culture into live performance by artists.

"One of the privileges of running an organization like Performa is the opportunity to work with a board of directors made up of some of the most visionary, creative and dynamic individuals in the world today," says RoseLee Goldberg, Founding Director and Curator of Performa. "Performa is an innovative institution that asks its board members and advisory council to join us in imagining the future. I am incredibly grateful for their leadership and generosity."

"I have been involved with Performa from the very beginning, and am delighted to be part of this organization," says Board Chair Toby Devan Lewis.

"I am honored and excited to take on the position of Vice-Chair of the Performa board. My first experience with Performa was during the Performa 13 Biennial, when I worked with Performa to restage LeRoi Jones/Amiri Baraka's 1964 play *Dutchman* in the 10<sup>th</sup> Street Russian-Turkish Bath House. I was impressed by Performa's artist-first approach and their hands on involvement in helping realize my vision. I look forward to helping continue the great legacy Performa has earned and helping it to grow as a resource for artists and a vehicle for producing and showcasing innovative performance-based works," says Rashid Johnson, New York-based artist.

Since its inception, Performa has been a leader in commissioning artists whose works have shaped a new chapter in the multi-century legacy of visual artists working in live performance.

## **PERFORMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

*As of February 2016*

Irving Benson  
Todd Bishop  
Amy Cappellazzo  
Toby Devan Lewis (Chair)  
Wendy Fisher  
RoseLee Goldberg  
Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn  
Ronald Guttman  
Barbara Hoffman  
Rashid Johnson (Vice-Chair)  
Aditya Julka  
Edward Tyler Nahem  
Shirin Neshat

## **PERFORMA ADVISORY COUNCIL:**

*As of February 2016*

Laurie Beckelman  
Concetta Duncan  
Stephanie French  
Michael Kantrow  
Anne Bergeron

## **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 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. As a "museum without walls," Performa provides important art historical heft to the field by showing the development of live art in all its forms from many different cultural perspectives reaching back to the Renaissance. The Performa Biennial is celebrated world wide 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 November. The Performa biennial has attracted a national and international audience of more than 200,000 and receives more than 5,000,000 website hits during its three week run. In the last decade Performa has presented 592 performances, worked with 732 artists, and toured commissioned performances in 17 countries around the world.

For more on Performa and its programs including the Performa Biennial, please visit <http://performa-arts.org/>.  
Join the conversation: @PerformaNYC #Performa10Years

## **PERFORMA IS SUPPORTED BY:**

Performa's annual programs and operations are supported by the Lambent Foundation, the David and Elaine Potter Foundation, The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, The New York State Council for the Arts, a State Agency and the Performa Board of Directors and Patron Circles. The Performa Institute and fellowship program is supported by Lambent Foundation, Ford Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and NYU Steinhardt Department of Art and Art Professions.

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