

PERFORMA BIENNIAL 2023

**PERFORMA TO HONOR ARTIST & PERFORMA ALUMNUS DERRICK ADAMS,
LONGTIME BOARD MEMBER JEANNE GREENBERG ROHATYN, AND ARCHITECT &
DESIGNER GAETANO PESCE**

Kicking off the tenth edition of the Biennial, the Opening Night Gala will celebrate the history of SoHo as the epicenter of artistic experimentation through a series of performances and actions.



Left: Derrick Adams. Photo by Shaun Champion. | Center: Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn. Photo by Luis Monteiro. Courtesy of Salon 94 Design. | Right: Gaetano Pesce. Photo by Olga Antipina.

(OCTOBER 10, 2023 – NEW YORK CITY)—Performa, the internationally acclaimed organization dedicated to live interdisciplinary performance by visual artists, is pleased to announce details for the **Performa Biennial 2023 Opening Night Gala**, which will take place on **Wednesday, November 1** at 52 Mercer Street in SoHo. This year’s honorees will be a trifecta of Performa legends: multi-Performa Biennial alumnus, artist **Derrick Adams**; long-time Performa Board Member and founder of Salon 94 + Salon 94 Design, **Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn**; and Performa hero and muse, Italian architect and designer **Gaetano Pesce**.

The gala will inaugurate the milestone tenth edition of the Performa Biennial—which will take place from November 1-19 and feature 40 artists from around the world—and pay tribute to the honorees with a lineup of performances and innovative culinary experiences revolving around the rich history of SoHo in the 1970s, where artistic communities produced some of the most pioneering, experimental work of the 20th century. Fluxus-inspired actions will greet gala guests as they enter the SoHo loft space, and the evening will feature performances of early works by the **Trisha Brown Dance Company**; live music by **Derrick Adams** and **Dave Guy**, trumpeter for **The Roots**; a conceptual performance by **Gaetano Pesce**,

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who will create his iconic lamps in a live “workshop” for gala guests; and chocolate sculptures that evoke the cast-iron building façades of SoHo by **Andrea Ferrero**. Catering will be provided by **BITE**, who will take inspiration from **FOOD**—the infamous artist-run restaurant in SoHo founded by **Carol Goodden**, **Tina Girouard** and **Gordon Matta-Clark**, which brought the artistic community together and is said to have inspired the field of relational art.

Immediately following the Gala, Performa will host its beloved **Artist Party** at this year’s **Performa Hub**, a mix-used storefront designed by Berlin-based architect **Assaf Kimmel** located four blocks away from the dinner at 408-412 Broadway. Hosted by Performa alumni including **Korakrit Arunanondchai**, **Sara Cwynar**, **Liz Magic Laser**, **Sigrid Lauren**, **Shikeith**, and **Tschabalala Self**, among others, the evening will feature live music by **Oscar Nñ of Papi Juice**, as well as a series of yet-to-be-announced performances.

On this year’s honorees, **Founding Director RoseLee Goldberg comments**: "Jeanne is a visionary in her own right and understood Performa's mission from the very start: her energy and commitment helped establish our global reputation as the leading commissioning organization of live performance by visual artists. Derrick’s inventive and riveting performances in several Performa Biennials showed his extraordinary ability to function on many different levels at once: serious and critical, clever and funny, entertaining and disturbing, all at the same time; while Gaetano's radical ideas on design and architecture have continued, decade after decade, to blur the boundaries between art, design, and architecture. His irreverent, dramatic forms that encompass both past and present, entice, and seduce, and transform every space they inhabit. Tonight, we are honored to celebrate each of their remarkable accomplishments, their ongoing brilliance, and their inspiring contributions to our organization."

The evening will pay tribute to **Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn**’s long-standing commitment to Performa, where she has served as a Board Member since 2006 and as Board Chair between 2009 to 2016, playing an instrumental role in furthering Performa’s mission to encourage new directions in performance for the 21st century. The evening will also honor artist **Derrick Adams**, who has participated in three Performa Biennials, beginning with the inaugural edition with *ANEW: The Transformative Nature of a Thing* at Participant Inc. for Performa 05; *Once Upon a Time...*, co-presented by the Calder Foundation and Salon 94 for Performa 13; *Pablo Fanque's Circus Royal / Sideshow*, and *Institution of Me*, both curated by Adrienne Edwards for Performa 15. Adams was additionally featured artist alongside collaborator Dave Guy for the 2020 Performa Telethon—a groundbreaking Nam June Paik-inspired live broadcast fundraiser at Pace Live. Alongside Rohatyn and Adams, Performa honors **Gaetano Pesce**, who for over sixty years has been dedicated to the principle of research and innovation. For the Performa 19 Biennial, Pesce relocated his studio to Salon 94, where his assistants were at work preparing molds, pouring resin, hand finishing, and other processes, in a conceptual performance meant to “transfer the atmosphere” of the working shop, with its sounds, machines, and urgent, improvisatory energy.

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What: Performa Biennial 2023 Opening Night Gala

Where: 52 Mercer Street, New York, NY 10013

When: Wednesday, November 1, 2023

7 pm Cocktails

8 pm Dinner & Performances

10 pm Artist Party

Honorees: Derrick Adams, Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn, Gaetano Pesce

Co-Hosts: Wendy Fisher, Rashid Johnson and Sheree Hovsepian, Kianga Ellis Projects

Patrons: Sarah Arison, Mimi Brown, Gagosian, Agnes Gund, Lévy Gorvy Dayan, Fiona and Eric Rudin, David Zwirner

Benefit Committee:

Nate Berkus and Jeremiah Brent, Katherine Bishop*, Derek Blasberg, James Keith Brown and Eric Diefenbach, Julien Creuzet and Ana Pi, Laura Currie, Domenico and Eleanore De Sole, Fairfax Dorn and Mare Glimcher, Marcel Dzama, Cristina Enriquez-Bocobo and Michael Kantrow, Andrea Franchini* and Cian Connor, Nikita Gale, Barbara Gladstone and Erik Savercool, RoseLee Goldberg* and Dakota Jackson, Ronald and Jan Greenberg, Mark Guiducci, Ronald and Amy Guttman, Anna Maria Häkkinen, Jeremy O. Harris, Hauser & Wirth, Barbara Hoffman, Sue Hostetler, Pierce Jackson and Dianna Mesion, Zoe Jackson and Eric Render, Assaf Kimmel, Eileen O'Kane Kornreich, Sarah Levine, Julie Mehretu, Laurence Milstein, Marilyn Minter, Tyler Mitchell, Jessica Sofia Mitrani, Shirin Neshat, Adam Pendleton, Meruert Planul-Tolegen, Ashley Stewart Rödder, Kara Ross, Beth Rudin DeWoody and Firooz Zahedi, Roya Sachs*, Antwaun Sargent, Carla Shen and Chris Schott, Cindy Sherman, Laurie Simmons, Debora and Jes Staley, Moses Sumney, Asad Syrkett, Pilvi Takala, Ellen and Bill Taubman, Max Teicher / 291 Agency, Laurie M. Tisch, Nora Turato, Franz Erhard Walther, Arden Wohl, Haegue Yang

**2023 Gala Steering Committee Member*

To purchase tickets or make a donation, visit:

<https://secure.givelively.org/donate/performa-inc/performa-2023-opening-night-gala>

For questions, please contact Sabrina Potterpin at gala@performa-arts.org or 212-920-7341.

For press requests, please contact Evan Lenox at performa@culturalcounsel.com.

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ABOUT PERFORMA:

Founded in 2004 by art historian and curator RoseLee Goldberg, Performa has expanded the possibilities for visual artists working in performance, providing essential curatorial and production support, and, with its dedicated biennial, providing a worldwide platform for performance of the 21st century. Performa Commissions have entirely changed the possibilities of the form and its educational programs have shown

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its rich history as an integral part of artistic practice, reaching back through the centuries to the Renaissance. This visionary organization has entirely transformed every art institution's approach to visual art performance, now a staple in art museums and galleries throughout the world. Since 2005, Performa has produced nine biennials, reaching an international audience of over 250,000 people and featuring more than 1,000 artists at 300-plus venues and locations across New York City.

PERFORMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Katherine Bishop (President), Richard Chang (President Emeritus), Wendy Fisher, RoseLee Goldberg (Founding Director), Ronald Guttman, Julia Fowler (Treasurer), Andrea Franchini, Barbara Hoffman (Secretary), Rashid Johnson (Board Chair), Toby Devan Lewis (Emeritus Board Chair), Shirin Neshat, Ashley Stewart Rödder, Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn, Roya Sachs, and Neil Wenman.

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