

WILLIAM FORSYTHE: Choreographic Objects

The MAK will set the museum summer in motion in
cooperation with the ImPulsTanz Festival

MAK – Press and PR

presse@MAK.at

Press Release

Vienna, 11.7.2024

Press Tour

Thursday, 11.7.2024, 5 pm

Please register at presse@MAK.at

In cooperation with ImPulsTanz – Vienna International Dance Festival, this summer the MAK will become the venue for an extraordinary exhibition by renowned choreographer William Forsythe. The center of the course in the lower MAK Exhibition Hall will be the installation *Nowhere and Everywhere at the Same Time*, Nr. 2, which consists of hundreds of swinging pendulums and engages the visitors' bodies with the exhibition space. The ImPulsTanz Festival 2024 will officially open at the MAK with the exhibition *WILLIAM FORSYTHE: Choreographic Objects* on Thursday, 11.7.2024, at 8 pm.

Since 1984, ImPulsTanz has grown to become the largest European festival for contemporary dance and performance. For almost ten years now, ImPulsTanz has been enriching its program with synergies in fine arts, thus blurring the boundaries between performing and visual artistic expressions. This summer, the festival will visit the MAK for the first time.

At the initiative of ImPulsTanz, the MAK is very much looking forward to collaborating with William Forsythe, one of the most influential choreographers of our time. Not many have shaped the world of contemporary dance and ballet as profoundly as Forsythe has over the past 50 years. With his dance works, the American choreographer has freed the practice of ballet from its identification with the classical repertoire and turned it into a dynamic art form of the 21st century. In addition to his roles as director of Ballet Frankfurt as well as founder and leader of The Forsythe Company, Forsythe has also been developing *Choreographic Objects* since 1989, which are presented at international art biennales and museums.

Together, ImPulsTanz and the MAK are celebrating Forsythe's tireless curiosity and his interest in the choreographic basic principles that shape the world.

On roughly 1,500 m² in the MAK Exhibition Hall, four works by the artist will be shown – besides *Nowhere and Everywhere at the Same Time, Nr. 2*, also *City of Abstracts* (2000), *Putting one foot in front of the other* (2019), and *Attempt to walk without rhythm* (2023). These *Choreographic Objects* cannot merely be understood by looking at them. It is the audience's reaction and the movements these reactions induce that create a comprehensive, genre-transcending overall choreography and thus complete the work.

"With the William Forsythe exhibition, the movement of the ImPulsTanz Festival will also extend to the MAK. William Forsythe's *Choreographic Objects* will enrich our program. Their participatory approach harmonizes in a special way with the interdisciplinary narrative of the MAK and the unique accessibility of this museum for its audience," Lilli Hollein, General Director and Artistic Director of the MAK, states.

About the Exhibited Works:

The core piece of the exhibition is the spatial installation *Nowhere and Everywhere at the Same Time, Nr. 2* (2013). Visitors are invited to enter the installation and move within the field of pendulums. While they try to anticipate the unpredictable movements of the pendulums and avoid contact with them, their bodies move in their own choreographies. The resulting overall composition shows how we organize our environment but are also organized by it. The installation addresses two central themes in Forsythe's work: counterpoint and the unconscious choreographic competence that can arise from choreographic situations.

City of Abstracts (2000) is an LED video wall that visitors walk towards through a long corridor. Their movements are recorded and projected in a distorted way. Through their own observation, visitors explore their movements and their role in the image production, thus creating surprising, unintended, and unconscious choreographies through experimentation.

The installation *Putting one foot in front of the other* (2019) consists of numerous concrete instructions that visitors execute step by step on a length of 20 meters.

Attempt to walk without rhythm (2023) is an invitation to the visitors to resist the primal impulse of creating regular patterns of speed and rhythm while walking.

William Forsythe

William Forsythe (born 1949 in New York) trained as a dancer in Florida. He danced with the Joffrey Ballet and later with the Stuttgart Ballet, where he was also a resident choreographer. From 1984 on, he was the director of Ballet



Frankfurt for two decades and subsequently established the independent Forsythe Company, which he headed until 2015.

Since then, Forsythe has worked as a freelance choreographer, creating new stage works for various ballet ensembles, including the Paris Opera Ballet, the English National Ballet, the Boston Ballet, and the Ballet Teatro alla Scala. His choreographies have entered the repertoires of ballet ensembles worldwide.

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Since the 1990s, Forsythe has been developing architectural, performative, and cinematic installations. These *Choreographic Objects* have been presented in the most renowned museums and exhibitions worldwide, including the Whitney Biennial (New York, 1997), the Louvre (Paris, 2006), the Pinakothek der Moderne (Munich, 2006), the Tate Modern (London, 2009), the MoMA (New York, 2010), the Venice Biennale (2005, 2009, 2012, 2014), the MMK – Museum für Moderne Kunst Frankfurt (2015), the 20th Biennale of Sydney (2016), the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (2020), or the Kunsthaus Zürich (2021).

William Forsythe has received numerous prizes and awards, including the Golden Lion of Lifetime Achievement at the Venice Biennale in 2010, the German Theater Prize DER FAUST, and the prestigious Kyoto Prize 2024 for Arts and Philosophy.

Press photos are available for download at MAK.at/en/press.

A cooperation between ImPulsTanz – Vienna International Dance Festival and the MAK – Museum of Applied Arts

IMPULSTANZ
Vienna International Dance Festival



Press Tour

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Please register at presse@MAK.at

Opening

Thursday, 11.7.2024, 8 pm

Free admission to the exhibition opening

Exhibition Venue

Lower MAK Exhibition Hall

MAK, Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna

Exhibition Dates

11.7.–18.8.2024

Opening Hours

Tue 10 am–9 pm, Wed to Sun 10 am–6 pm

Coordinator

Antje Prisker, MAK Special Projects

MAK Admission

€ 16.50/15.50*; reduced € 13.50/12.50*; every Tuesday 6–9 pm:
admission € 8/7.50*

Free admission for kids and teens under 19

* Ticket price online

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