

ULAY IN GENEVA

Invisible Opponent

A PROJECT BY ART FOR THE WORLD
MUSÉE D'ART ET D'HISTOIRE, GENÈVE

PRESS RELEASE

ULAY in Geneva

February 2016 - ULAY, performance and body art pioneer, gave a historic performance alongside Marina Abramović at the Musée d'art et d'histoire of Geneva in 1977, in support of the creation of a modern art museum in Geneva. Today, the German artist is returning to the Musée d'art et d'histoire, invited by the curator Adelina von Fürstenberg, in the context of the 20th anniversary of ART for The World. On 5 April, the day after the screening of his documentary film *Performing Life*, ULAY will offer a new performance titled *Invisible Opponent* in the exact same space he performed 39 years ago.

4 April – Film screening

Performing Life

At the Musée d'art et d'histoire's Auditorium, ULAY will introduce his documentary film *Performing Life*. After being diagnosed with cancer in 2011, Ulay decided to turn the movie he was working on into a documentary on his life and his battle against the disease. A montage of fragments of ancient performances, interviews and conversations about art, the result is a touching voyage through artistic life and personal memories. The documentary was shown in several venues throughout the world such as the Centre Pompidou in Paris, the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam and the Neue Galerie in Berlin. The screening will be followed by a Q+A with the artist.

5 April - Performance

Invisible Opponent

The Musée d'art et d'histoire of Geneva and ART for The World present a new world premiere performance by ULAY. The artist returns to the very same space where, 39 years ago, he gave the seminal performance, *Balance Proof*, with Marina Abramović.

Use of cell phones, cameras or video equipment is prohibited during the performance.

Collective Sound Project

World Water Joy - A Work in Progress

ART for The World will launch in February 2016 a platform titled *World Water Joy*, forming part of *Earth Water Catalogue* (www.earthwatercatalogue.net/), through which the artist has been primarily engaged in projects and artistic initiatives that raise awareness, enhance understanding and appreciation of, and respect for water. In *World Water Joy*, through an open call for sounds to the



global art community, the artist and ART for The World will create a collection of water sounds to be made available on a public digital archive, from which the artist will create a unique sound composition to be broadcast worldwide.

ULAY's Biography

A pioneer of body and performance art, Uwe Frank Laysiepen, better known in artistic milieus as ULAY, was born in 1943 in Solingen, Germany. After four decades of living and working in Amsterdam, several long-term artistic projects in India, Australia and China, and a professorship of Performance and New Media Art at the Staatliche Hochschule für Gestaltung, Karlsruhe in Germany, ULAY is currently living and working in Ljubljana, Slovenia. His radically innovative body of work and performances are defining ULAY as one of the most significant artistic personalities of our time. In the early period of his artistic activity (1968-1976), he undertook a thematic search for understandings of the notions of identity and the body on both the personal and communal levels, mainly through series of Polaroid photographs, aphorisms and intimate performances. From 1976 to 1988, he collaborated with Marina Abramović on numerous performances; their work focused on questioning perceived masculine and feminine traits and pushing the physical limits of the body (*Relation Works*). After the break with Marina, ULAY focused on photography, addressing the position of the marginalised individual in contemporary society and re-examining the problem of nationalism and its symbols (*Berlin Afterimages*, 1994-1995). In recent years, ULAY has been primarily engaged in projects and artistic initiatives that raise awareness, enhance understanding and appreciation of, and respect for, water (*Earth Water Catalogue*, 2012). ULAY's work, as well as his collaborative work with Marina Abramović, are featured in many collections of major art institutions all over the world, such as the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; the Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven; the Centre Pompidou, Paris; the Louisiana Museum, Copenhagen; the Moderna Museet Stockholm; the Kunstmuseum, Bern, and the Museum of Modern Art, New York.

ART for The World

ART for The World is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), affiliated to UNDPI, the United Nations Department of Public Information, and recognized of public utility by the Canton of Geneva, which aims to mobilize contemporary art, cinema and culture on the key issues of our society. Since its foundation in 1996, ART for The World has organized large travelling projects and produced several short films. It operates mainly in Switzerland, Italy, France, Great Britain, Greece, Turkey, Armenia, India, Africa, Latin America and in the USA. Since 1998, ART for The World has collaborated with the Regional Department of SESC São Paulo, a key Brazilian cultural NGO. In 2005, ART for The World Europa, its sister association, was founded in Turin, with executive headquarters in Milan.

Le Musée d'art et d'histoire de Genève

Built between 1903 and 1910 by the Geneva-based architect Marc Camoletti, the Musée d'art et d'histoire is one of the most important encyclopaedic museums in Switzerland. With a collection of more than 500.000 works which comprises masterpieces and unique series, conferring it its internationally recognized status, the museum shows in its permanent spaces a selection of its applied art, fine art and archaeologic pieces. The museum has a presence in other parts of the city through the Musée Rath and the Maison Tavel, which make up the Musées d'art et d'histoire.



Programme

Film Screening

Performing Life

4 avril, 6.30 pm, Auditorium of the Musée d'art et d'histoire

Followed by Q&A session with ULAY

Performance

Invisible Opponent

5 avril, 7 pm at the Musée d'art et d'histoire

Collective Sound Project

World Water Joy – A Work in Progress

February – May 2016

In the context of its 20th anniversary, ART for The World benefits from the generous support of the Department of Culture of the City of Geneva, CBH (Compagnie Bancaire Helvétique), Fraser Suites Geneva and Marco Colucci Encadrement + Art.



Contacts

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Open 11 am – 6 pm | Closed on Mondays

Free admission, subject to seat availability

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