PERFORMANCE

NOW

LIVE ART FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

RoseLee Goldberg

Thames & Hudson

RoseLee Goldberg



NOW

ON THE COVER Robin Rhode, Apparatus, 2009. C-prints mounted on Plexiglass. 36 parts, each: Over 260 illustrations First published in the United Kingdom in 2018 by Thames & Hudson Ltd, 181a High Holborn, London WC1V 7QX 35.6 x 53.3cm (14 x 21 in.). PAGE 1 Araya Rasdjarmrearnsook, Two Planets: Millet's The Gleaners and Thai Farmers, 2008. Film still. Thailand. Performance Now @ 2018 Thames & Hudson Ltd. PAGE 2-3 Nicholas Hlobo, Ungamqhavuli, 2008. Text © 2018 RoseLee Goldberg Michael Stevenson Gallery, Cape Town. THIS PAGE Pussy Riot Punk Prayer, 2012. All Rights Reserved. No part of this publication may be Red Square, Moscow. reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording or any other information storage and retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the publisher. First published in 2018 in the United States of America by Thames & Hudson Inc., 500 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York www.thamesandhudsonusa.com Library of Congress Control Number 2017959229 ISBN 978-0-500-02125-5 Printed in China by Shanghai Offset Printing Products Limited

INTRODUCTION 6

CHAPTER 1

Performance as Visual Art 12

CHAPTER 2

World Citizenship: Performance as a Global Language 70

CHAPTER 3

Radical Action: On Performance and Politics 110

CHAPTER 4

Dance After Choreography 156

CHAPTER 5

Off stage: New Theatre 196

CHAPTER 6

Performing Architecture 236

Picture credits 266 Index 268 Acknowledgments 272



KELLY NIPPER

Floyd on the Floor, 2004. Commission for Performa 07, Judson Memorial Church, New York. Photo by Paula Court.

Following the devastation of Hurricane
Floyd – a Category 4 storm that swept across
the East Coast of the United States in 1999 –
Nipper's choreographic investigation of disaster
uses prognostication patterns of weather systems
and shifts in barometric pressure to direct
the movement of eight masked dancers. The
performers clutch at an oversized parachute and
whirl, tumble, fall and rise, allowing the order
of choreographed steps in time to fall under the
hazardous and erratic direction of a random
system, while simultaneously harnessing it.

JACOLBY SATTERWHITE

Reifying Desire 6, 2012. Film still. Commission for the Whitney Biennial 2014, New York.

Satterwhite remixes his performances with home movies, family photos, arthistorical images, documentary footage and his mother's drawings in surreal 3D animations that combine to produce a digital portrait. Here he plots individual narratives as data points to be interpreted in the fantasy landscape of a video game universe. Presented as a six-channel video installation, the work scatters attention as real and virtual characters move in and out. The artist becomes an avatar of sorts, into whose world the audience can step.



Now one of the most highly visible art forms, in the last two decades performance has emerged from the margins to become an essential vehicle for communication, transforming museums and galleries into lively cultural hubs for future generations. This landmark survey by renowned authority RoseLee Goldberg reveals how live art has developed in the 21st century as a visual medium, a global language and a political force. A mesmerizing survey of this most varied art form, Performance Now is the ultimate reference for artists, art students and historians, as well as theater, film, dance and architecture enthusiasts with an eye on the avant-garde.

RoseLee Goldberg is an art historian, critic and curator whose book, *Performance Art:* From Futurism to the Present, first published in 1979, pioneered the study of performance art. She is also the author of Performance: Live Art Since the 1960s and Laurie Anderson. In 2004 she founded Performa, now the leading arts organization for the development and presentation of 21st-century visual art performance.





