

THE SHED



The Shed Announces Pre-Opening Event at Offsite Location May 1–13, 2018

***A Prelude to The Shed* Includes New Work by William Forsythe, Tino Sehgal's *This variation*, and Special Concerts by ABRA, Arca, and Azealia Banks**

February 6, 2018, New York—From May 1-13, approximately one year before opening in spring 2019, The Shed will present a free multi-arts event on an undeveloped lot at Tenth Avenue and 30th Street in Manhattan.

"One block away from our future home on the west side, we are temporarily transforming an empty lot into a flexible public space for new work, collaboration, and dialogue," said Alex Poots, Founding Artistic Director and CEO of The Shed. "***Prelude*** begins to demonstrate our mission to nurture artistic invention by commissioning and presenting new work for a wide audience."

A transformable structure is as vital to the architecture of ***Prelude*** as it is to The Shed, where perimeters shift to accommodate multiple artistic disciplines under one roof. Architect **Kunlé Adeyemi** of **NLÉ Works** collaborated closely with artist **Tino Sehgal** to design a temporary space in

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which dancers move and reconfigure the structure in a fluid integration of architecture and choreography.

“*A Prelude to The Shed* is an exploration of architecture as an extension of human body, culture, and environment. Can architecture be more human? This curiosity led us to reconfigure a steel shed into a comfortable interface to interact with people physically; inside and outside, in light and darkness, individually and collectively,” said Adeyemi. “Using simple technologies, we made the structure so that it can be moved and transformed by people, enabling its participation in different formats of art, education, events, and public life.”

Events happen throughout each day over the course of two weeks, seamlessly connected by Sehgal:

This variation, an immersive dance/sound piece by Sehgal, will happen continuously throughout each afternoon, interwoven with a new work by **William Forsythe**. Commissioned for *Prelude*, it is a radical re-imagining of the pas de deux from his seminal 1987 ballet *In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated*.

Prelude will present dance "battles" as an example of work from The Shed's pre-opening dance commission, **FlexNYC**, a free city-wide dance activism program for New York City youth under the direction of pioneering director and choreographer **Reggie 'Regg Roc' Gray** and his D.R.E.A.M Ring dancers (Dance Rules Everything Around Me).

On multiple evenings, *Prelude* will feature a series of live solo concerts by Atlanta-based R&B singer-songwriter **ABRA**, Venezuelan electronic music producer, DJ, and songwriter **Arca**, and New York-based rapper and singer-songwriter **Azealia Banks**.

Panels on alternate evenings will focus on topics that synthesize *Prelude's* programmatic ambitions: new institutional models for the 21st century, the politics of ritualized gatherings, and the role of art and culture in social connectivity. Scholar, writer, and curator **Dorothea von Hantelmann** organized the talks in collaboration with The Shed's artistic advisor, **Hans Ulrich Obrist**, and Chief Science and Technology Officer, **Kevin Slavin**.

Prelude also provides insight into the inspiration for The Shed's innovative architecture: The Fun Palace, an influential but unrealized idea developed in 1961 by architect Cedric Price, whose vision to fuse participation and architecture is well-preserved in archives. *Prelude* will encourage visitors to interact with reproductions of these artifacts in a way that is more dynamic than just looking—mobile exhibition carts will be moved around Adeyemi's temporary space by students prepared to engage in conversation.

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Artist **Asad Raza** will lead an experimental school each morning, based on his ongoing work "Schema for a school." Students will be led through a series of exercises, activities, and assignments as a way of examining different modes of radical pedagogy, some aspects of which will be open to audience members.

"Art institutions—museums, exhibitions, theaters, concert halls, festivals—have always been spaces in which a social structure becomes manifest. To find ritual forms that correspond to contemporary forms of life and to the social structures of the early 21st century, that is the aspiration to which this project is dedicated," said von Hantelmann, in an essay commissioned by The Shed for this event.

"Like The Fun Palace, *Prelude* is a hybridization of exhibition and performance, functionally structured to encourage open engagement with audiences and fresh, collaborative approaches from artists," said Hans Ulrich Obrist. "It is emblematic of our own era in that it lends itself to the choreography of 21st-century time-based exhibitions."

A Prelude to The Shed is programmed by **Alex Poots, Hans Ulrich Obrist, Tino Sehgal, Dorothea von Hantelmann, Julia Simpson, Tamara McCaw, and Kevin Slavin.**

Frank H. McCourt, Jr., a board member and founding supporter of The Shed has also generously donated the site for *Prelude*. McCourt said, "The Shed will be a place to showcase and celebrate the best of our human potential, talent, and spirit, and I congratulate Alex and his team on this beginning."

Admission to *A Prelude to The Shed* is free, via advanced reservations at theshed.org beginning in April, or by walk-up at the *Prelude* site in May. For more information about *Prelude* and The Shed, visit theshed.org.

About The Shed

Located on Manhattan's west side and led by artistic director and CEO Alex Poots, The Shed is the first multi-arts center designed to commission, produce, and present new work from artists and creative thinkers collaborating across disciplines. The venue—an innovative 200,000-square-foot structure designed by Diller Scofidio + Renfro in collaboration with Rockwell Group—can be physically transformed and optimized to support artists' most ambitious ideas. The eight-level base building includes two levels of gallery space, a versatile theater, a rehearsal space, a creative lab, and a skylit event space; its telescoping outer shell deploys over an adjoining plaza to double the building's footprint for large-scale performances, installations, and events. Driven by experimentation and collaboration, The Shed is bringing together artists from the widest range of genres and backgrounds and leading minds in the humanities, sciences, and technology to redefine the arts in the 21st century. Opening in spring 2019. theshed.org.

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#PreludeToTheShed

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