
THE SHED Press Release

THE **BLOOMBERG** BUILDING
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Wheatfield—A Confrontation, 1982. Two acres of wheat planted and harvested by the artist on the Battery Park landfill, Manhattan, Summer 1982. Courtesy of Agnes Denes; commissioned by Public Art Fund.

The Shed Announces Five New Commissions and Updates for Fall-Winter 2019 as part of its Opening Season

NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 28, 2019— Alex Poots, artistic director and CEO of The Shed, rounded out the new arts center’s opening season by announcing five new commissions for fall and winter of 2019 and the opening date for *Agnes Denes: Absolutes and Intermediates* (October 9 – January 19, 2020). These new works span creative disciplines and will be presented in spaces throughout The Shed’s Bloomberg Building. “The Shed’s mission is to provide a place for artists of all disciplines to make new work,” said Alex Poots. “Our commissioning program encourages established and emerging artists to take creative risks to engage the widest audience.”

Arca

Fall 2019, The Griffin Theater

Venezuelan artist, singer, and electronic music composer Arca returns to New York City to premiere the first act of an experimental performance cycle titled *Mutant; Faith*. This commission follows a performance series at *A Prelude to The Shed*, the institution’s free, two-week pre-opening event in May 2018.

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Agnes Denes: Absolutes and Intermediates

October 9, 2019 – January 19, 2020, Level 2 and Level 4 Galleries

Comprised of over 130 works on paper, sculptures, and media work, *Agnes Denes: Absolutes and Intermediates* is the most comprehensive survey of the artist in New York to date. Spanning her decades-long career, the exhibition will fill The Shed's two expansive galleries and highlights her multidisciplinary practice, her commitment to ecological and environmental concerns, and experimental practice within art making. Moving from drawings to unrealized and realized works, three new commissions will bring projects into The Shed that Denes has been imagining and reworking since the 1970s. Curated by Emma Enderby.

William Forsythe: A Quiet Evening of Dance

October 11 – 25, 2019, The Griffin Theater

Groundbreaking choreographer **William Forsythe** brings to The Shed a vivid combination of new and existing work. The intricate phrasing of the dancers' breath is the primary sound accompanying Forsythe's inventive choreography, which draws on the geometric origins of classical ballet and ranges from sparse and analytic to lush and baroque. The result is a new kind of production that, like an evening of chamber music, feels designed to be listened to.

A Quiet Evening of Dance is performed by seven of Forsythe's most trusted collaborators, who promise to provide insight into the workings of ballet and the mind of the man who has dedicated his work to this task. The commission includes: two new pieces, *Epilogue* and *Seventeen/Twenty One*; two reimaged repertory works, *Dialogue (DUO2015)* and *Catalogue (Second Edition)*; and *Prologue*, an excerpt of *Seventeen/Twenty One*.

A Sadler's Wells London Production co-commissioned by The Shed; Théâtre de la Ville-Paris, Théâtre du Châtelet and Festival d'Automne à Paris; Festival Montpellier Danse 2019; Les Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg; Onassis Cultural Centre-Athens; and deSingel international arts campus (Antwerp). Winner of the FEDORA - VAN CLEEF & ARPELS Prize for Ballet 2018.

Manual Override

November 13, 2019 – January 2020, The Griffin Theater

As The Shed's first guest curator, critic Nora N. Khan has organized *Manual Override*, a group exhibition with artists Lynn Hershman Leeson, Sondra Perry, Simon Fujiwara, Martine Syms, and Morehshin Allahyari. The exhibition centers on the pioneering filmmaker and artist Lynn Hershman Leeson, whose artistic practice involves collaborations with cutting-edge geneticists, scientists, and engineers. Hershman Leeson will premiere the final episode of her seminal work *First Person Plural: The Complete Electronic Diaries (1984 – 2019)*, a series of confessional videos exploring the complex interplay between DNA editing, trauma, identity, and survival. The Shed will also present a new commission by Hershman Leeson, *Shadow Stalker (2019)*.

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Perry, Fujiwara, Syms, and Allahyari will adapt Leeson's collaborative model as a prototype, each pairing with programmers, engineers, AI experts, and scientists. In *Manual Override*, these artists continue to create their own hybrid practices to reframe, reimagine, and even intervene in dominant technological narratives. Together, this group of artists suggests how we might override our coded, genetic, and social programming to expand the limits of what personal, artistic, and intellectual inquiry can be. Guest curated by Nora N. Khan.

Requiem

November 19 – 24, 2019, The McCourt

The *Messa da Requiem* highlights Giuseppe Verdi's dramatic gifts for symphonic and choral writing with virtuosic solo moments. **Teodor Currentzis** and his orchestra and chorus **musicAeterna**, from Perm, Russia, will perform the *Requiem* in its entirety in their North American debut. Accompanying the performance is a specially commissioned cinematic artwork of moving image by avant-garde filmmaker **Jonas Mekas**. For this commission, Mekas, who passed away in January at the age of 96, drew inspiration from the words of Alessandro Manzoni, the poet and novelist to whom *Requiem* was dedicated.

Jonas Mekas's cinematic artwork for *Requiem* is co-commissioned by The Shed and Festspielhaus Baden-Baden.

On sale dates for tickets will be announced. Please check theshed.org for updates.

About The Shed:

Located on Manhattan's west side, where the High Line meets Hudson Yards, The Shed commissions original works of art, across all disciplines, for all audiences. From hip hop to classical music, painting and sculpture to literature, film to theater and dance, The Shed brings together leading and emerging artists and thinkers from all disciplines under one roof. The building—a remarkable movable structure designed by Diller Scofidio + Renfro, Lead Architect, and Rockwell Group, Collaborating Architect—physically transforms to support artists' most ambitious ideas. Committed to nurturing artistic invention and bringing creative experiences to the broadest possible audiences, The Shed, led by Artistic Director and CEO Alex Poots, is a 21st-century space of and for New York City.

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