

# The Museum of Modern Art

## MoMA WILL PRESENT *YVE LARIS COHEN: STUDIO/THEATER*, AN INSTALLATION AND PERFORMANCES IN THE KRAVIS STUDIO

### A Newly Commissioned Work by Yve Laris Cohen Transforms the Remains of Jacob's Pillow's Destroyed Doris Duke Theatre

**NEW YORK, October 3, 2022**—The Museum of Modern Art will present *Yve Laris Cohen: Studio/Theater*, a new installation and series of performances in the Marie-Josée and Henry Kravis Studio. In this exhibition, on view from October 8, 2022, through January 1, 2023, Laris Cohen will bring the architectural remains of Jacob's Pillow's Doris Duke Theatre, which was destroyed in a 2020 fire, into MoMA's performance space. *Studio/Theater* will raise questions about what constitutes a theater, and how these spaces are themselves fragile and interdependent. *Yve Laris Cohen: Studio/Theater* is organized by Martha Joseph, The Phyllis Ann and Walter Borten Assistant Curator of Media and Performance, with May Makki, Curatorial Assistant, Department of Media and Performance. Performances are produced by Lizzie Gorfaine, Producer, with Jessie Gold, Assistant Performance Coordinator, and Olivia Rousey, Assistant Performance Coordinator, Performance and Live Programs.

"This exhibition is a poetic meditation on the afterlives of performance and the way all organic and inorganic materials change and decay," says Martha Joseph. "The installation and performances ask us to consider the fragility of objects, bodies, and our own cultural institutions."

Yve Laris Cohen creates installations and performances that challenge the conventions of dance and visual art. His work uses elements of theatrical architecture—walls, curtains, rigging systems, and sprung floors—and considers the everyday labor that goes into constructing, handling, and maintaining them. These materials transform over time, whether from physical deterioration, active repair, or changing status from architecture into artwork and back again. Previous exhibitions by Laris Cohen have looked at damaged sets or decommissioned theater buildings to open up questions of value in the respective economies of art and performance. At times, drawing connections between structural damage and bodily illness, the artist stages narratives of trauma and care, conflict and support, vulnerability and dependency.

Founded in the 1930s, Jacob's Pillow is a historic dance site in Becket, Massachusetts, renowned for its School and summer Dance Festival. Built in 1990 and originally named the Studio/Theatre, the Doris Duke Theatre was one of three primary performance spaces on Jacob's Pillow's campus which was lost to a fire on November 17, 2020. Originally intended to house the work of emerging artists, over the next 30 years the Doris Duke became an internationally renowned home for new and experimental work. In 2021, Laris Cohen further developed *Studio/Theater* through research in the Jacob's Pillow Archives and in a residency at the Pillow Lab.

In addition to the installation, *Studio/Theater* will also consist of two performances, titled *Preservation* and *Conservation*, that alternate weekly over the course of the exhibition. Working with a cast of performers and a stenographer, Laris Cohen will harness the event of the fire to investigate how material objects and living art forms are maintained for future generations. *Studio/Theater* will aim to expand the parameters of dance as a discipline and

invite viewers to think of the chemical transformation, transportation, and decay of performance architecture as forms of choreography.

## **PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE**

*Preservation* at 8:00 p.m.

October 12, October 26, November 9, November 23, December 7, and December 21

*Conservation* at 8:00 p.m.

October 19, November 2, November 16, November 30, December 14, and December 28

The performance starts promptly at 8:00 p.m., and late entry is not permitted. Once the performance begins, no additional guests will be allowed into the performance space. Please arrive by 7:45 to allow enough time to check in prior to the start time.

Additionally, please note that all visitors in attendance are required to wear a mask for the duration of the performance. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided for you.

Performers: Stephen Furnstahl, Naomi Kroll Hasebroek, Michele d'Arcy Marincola, Lisa B. Malter, Norton Owen, Peter Rosenbaum, Christopher E. Swindlehurst, Liz Thompson, Anthony Tung, Lynda Zycherman  
Stagehand: Yve Laris Cohen  
Stenographer: Dominick M. Tursi  
Lighting design: Madeline Best  
Artist assistance: Cuba, Nora Chellew

*Preservation* was created in part during a residency at the Pillow Lab at Jacob's Pillow.

*Studio/Theater* is commissioned by The Museum of Modern Art, New York.

Special thanks to Jacob's Pillow.

## **SPONSORSHIP:**



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