

Museo del Novecento and Fondazione Furla
present

ALEXANDRA BACHZETSIS
Private: Wear a mask when you talk to me

November 29 and 30, 2017
Sala Fontana, Museo del Novecento, Milan

The second event in FURLA SERIES #01
Time after Time, Space after Space
Curated by Bruna Roccasalva and Vincenzo de Bellis

Museo del Novecento and Fondazione Furla present Swiss/Greek artist and choreographer Alexandra Bachzetsis, who for *Time after Time, Space after Space* will perform the Italian premiere of her piece *Private: Wear a mask when you talk to me* (2016).

Alexandra Bachzetsis takes a cross-disciplinary approach that blends dance, theater, performance, and the visual arts. Her investigation centers on the language of the body, specifically exploring how gestures and poses are shaped and determined by the stereotypes and clichés of popular culture. Bachzetsis's performances draw inspiration from many fields of mainstream culture, ranging from the entertainment world to fashion, to re-examine the tropes of contemporary femininity. Her exploration of the human body revolves around an ongoing analysis of how gestures are used in real life and fictional entertainment, whether "lowbrow"—music videos and television—or "highbrow"—the performing arts—and how these cultural genres interact and influence each other.

Private: Wear a mask when you talk to me was presented for the first time in 2016 at the Festival DansFabrik in Brest. In this 53-minute-long solo performance, the artist portrays a sequence of characters caught up in a vast range of stereotyped performative/choreographic/athletic poses and movements. One can make out a multitude of references: to Asian drag queen moves, fitness routines, advertisements, Michael Jackson, yoga positions, or even the postures found in football games or porn films. Like many of the artist's works, this piece explores how gender and sexual identity is expressed through the body and through movement, through an approach that pays homage to the experiments of dancer and choreographer Trisha Brown (1936-2017). *Private: Wear a mask when you talk to me* examines the manifold images of "femininity," studying the processes of depersonalization, transition and change, and how the fluid boundaries of self are constantly shifted, deconstructed, and redefined through stereotyped roles. *Private* is a constantly evolving project that recently engendered the performance *Private Song*, presented at Documenta 14 in Athens.

Alexandra Bachzetsis. Private: Wear a mask when you talk to me is the second event in *Furla Series #01 - Time after Time, Space after Space*, a performance-centered program that will showcase five artists of different generations and backgrounds, showing a range of approaches to this form of expression.

The program for *Time after Time, Space after Space*, which began in September with an event dedicated to Simone Forti, will present three more artists after Alexandra Bachzetsis: Adelita Husni-Bey (January 17-18, 2018), Paulina Ołowska (March 7-8, 2018), and Christian Marclay (April 13-14, 2018).

Alexandra Bachzetsis. Private: Wear a mask when you talk to me

November 29-30, 2017

Sala Fontana, Museo del Novecento

audience admitted at 7:30 pm, performance begins at 8:00 pm

Admission free, but room capacity is limited

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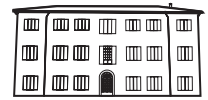
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ALEXANDRA BACHZETSIS

Born in 1974 in Zurich where she lives and works.

Alexandra Bachzetsis is a Swiss/Greek artist and choreographer. Her work grows out of a cross-disciplinary investigation that delves into cinema, television, music video, pop music, advertising, fashion, and porn, exploring gender stereotypes and how they are expressed, reinforced and deconstructed through the gestures and depictions of the female body.

Bachzetsis's multidisciplinary approach reflects her rich and complex academic background: she is a graduate of the Zürcher Kunstgymnasium, the Dimitrischule in Verscio, and the Performance Education Program at the STUK Arts Centre in Leuven, and continued her studies at DasArts - Advanced Research in Theatre and Dance Studies Centre in Amsterdam. During these years of training, the artist began working with some of the most interesting figures in contemporary dance and choreography, such as Sasha Waltz & Guests in Berlin and Les Ballets C de la B in Ghent. Since 2001, Bachzetsis has presented over 25 individual pieces in theaters and art venues around the world. Her work has appeared at some of the world's leading museums, including Kunsthalle Basel, Basel (2008), the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (2013, 2015), Tate Modern, London (2014), and the Jumex Museum, Mexico City (2014), and been featured in the 5th Berlin Biennial (2008), (d)OCUMENTA 13, Kassel (2012), Biennale de



l'Image en Mouvement, Geneva (2014), and Documenta 14, Athens / Kassel (2017). Bachzetsis also received the Migros Kulturprozent Jubilee Award in 2007, was shortlisted for the DESTE Prize in 2011, is a two-time recipient of the Swiss Art Award (2011, 2016), and was awarded the Swiss Performance Prize in 2012. In January 2017, MoMA in New York produced and presented her new performance, *Massacre: Variations on a Theme*.

FURLA SERIES #01

Time after Time, Space after Space, co-produced with the **Museo del Novecento in Milan**, is the first edition of the *Furla Series*. Through this project, curated by **Bruna Roccasalva** and **Vincenzo de Bellis** and launched in 2017, **Fondazione Furla** will present exhibitions and events dedicated to some of the leading artists from the Italian and international scene, in collaboration with Italy's foremost art institutions.

The partnership between Fondazione Furla and the Museo del Novecento is a unique opportunity to weave together past, present and future, forging a conversation between twentieth-century masters and key figures of our time. In the year that marks the fiftieth anniversary of Lucio Fontana's death, and the months leading up to it, *Time after Time, Space after Space* is also a tribute to this figure who played a fundamental role in drawing attention to the artistic potential of material gesture, presenting a succession of performances "lit" by his famous *Struttura al Neon per la IX Triennale di Milano* (1951).

The program will include projects by **Alexandra Bachzetsis**, **Simone Forti**, **Adelita Husni-Bey**, **Christian Marclay**, and **Paulina Olowska**, who from September 2017 and April 2018 will be invited to reinterpret the museum space through new productions or reenactments of milestone performances from their careers.