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MoMA PS1 PRESENTS FIRST US SURVEY OF RIRKRIT TIRAVANIJA OPENING OCTOBER 12

LONG ISLAND CITY, New York, October 10, 2023—MoMA PS1 presents the first US survey and largest exhibition to date dedicated to artist Rirkrit Tiravanija (Thai, b. 1961). On view from October 12, 2023 through March 4, 2024, *Rirkrit Tiravanija: A LOT OF PEOPLE* traces four decades of Tiravanija's career and features over 100 works, from early experimentations with installation and film, to drawings, works on paper, ephemera, sculpture, and newly produced "plays" of key participatory works.

Critical to the evolution of recent art in New York City and worldwide, Tiravanija's interdisciplinary work trades in myriad forms of cultural translation and mistranslation: using multiple languages, appropriating imagery, restaging his own work, and constructing architectural replicas. Often citing art history, cinema, and vernacular Thai culture while folding in aspects of his own biography, Tiravanija puts forth open-ended proposals to generate "another notion of culture"—one less reliant on Western understandings of aesthetics and authenticity. Surveying his practice as a sculptor, filmmaker, traveler, and mentor, *A LOT OF PEOPLE* provides an overview of the striking complexity of Tiravanija's pluralistic and itinerant efforts to "bring people in" to encounter each other and "make less things, but more useful relationships."

Titled *A LOT OF PEOPLE*, a frequent material line in many of Tiravanija's interactive pieces, the exhibition features a number of works that blur the distinction between artwork and audience. From playing ping-pong in *untitled 2021 (mañana es la cuestión)* to recording music in *untitled 1996 (rehearsal studio no. 6, open version)* and drinking Turkish coffee in *untitled 1993 (café deutschland)*, audiences become active participants in many of Tiravanija's works, which are only realized through their involvement.

Unfolding across the second floor galleries, lobby, and Courtyard, the exhibition gathers rarely seen early works from the late 1980s and 1990s—including many original sculptures, installations, and editions, some of which have been subsequently reimagined, cast, and memorialized over the years in new materials from plaster to bronze. Tiravanija's concern with the politics of the personal extends into works that tackle global politics as well as the quotidian news cycle. Examples from his *Demonstration Series* (2001–present)—drawings rendering photographs found in the *International Herald Tribune*—are presented alongside his evolving series of text pieces on newsprint, and appropriations of other artists, such as Philip Guston. To make many of these works, Tiravanija has set up a studio near his home in Chiang Mai, Thailand, creating an economy of art production that is explicitly localized and collaborative.

Central to the exhibition is a newly conceived presentation of five historical interactive works performed on a plywood stage—at the artist's direction—as a series of plays. Each play will be presented on Fridays and Saturdays for approximately one month, enacted by Tiravanija's current and former students from Columbia University, where he has taught for over two decades. These plays unfold in chronological order, beginning with *untitled 1990 (pad thai)* (1990), a work originally presented at New York's Paula Allen gallery in which pad thai is cooked, and closing with *untitled 2011 (t-shirt, no t-shirt)* (2011), an atelier where visitors can silkscreen clothing. These site-specific

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stagings acknowledge the distinct times and contexts in which these works originally took place, creating an experience where audiences can observe, as well as take part in, the happenings with critical distance. In this manner, Tiravanija continues to reactivate and translate his own works into new pieces that can adapt into the future.

untitled 1990 (pad thai), 1990

October 13 through November 11, 2023

untitled 1991/2008 (shall we dance), 1991/2008

November 17 through December 9, 2023

untitled 1992-1995 (free/still), 1992/1995/1997/1998/1999/2003/2007/2011-

December 15, 2023 through January 6, 2024

untitled 1994 (angst essen seele auf), 1994

January 12 through February 3, 2024

untitled 2011 (t-shirt, no t-shirt), 2011

February 9 through March 2, 2024

Rirkrit Tiravanija is the winner of the Absolut Art Award (2010), the Hugo Boss Prize (2004), the 5th Benesse Prize (2003), and the Smithsonian American Art Museum's Lucelia Artist Award (2003). Recent solo exhibitions have taken place at the Hirshhorn Museum (2019); the National Gallery Singapore (2018); Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (2016); the Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, Moscow (2015); the Kunsthalle Bielefeld (2010); the Kunsthalle Fridericianum, Kassel (2009); the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris; the Guggenheim Museum, New York; the Serpentine Gallery, London (all 2005); as well as at the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam (2004). Tiravanija has been on the faculty of the School of Visual Arts at Columbia University since 2000. He is co-founder of The Land Foundation, located in Chiang Mai, Thailand, and a member of Bangkok's alternative space and magazine VER.

Rirkrit Tiravanija: A LOT OF PEOPLE is organized by Ruba Katrib, Curator and Director of Curatorial Affairs, MoMA PS1, and Yasmil Raymond, guest curator, with Jody Graf and Kari Rittenbach, Assistant Curators, MoMA PS1.

A full-color publication accompanies the exhibition and includes original essays by the exhibition's curators, Ruba Katrib and Yasmil Raymond, as well as internationally renowned authors and scholars Jörn Schafaff, David Teh, and Mi You, with additional contributions by Abraham Cruzvillegas, Liam Gillick, Hou Hanru, Karl Holmqvist, Pierre Huyghe, Arthur Jafa, Eungie Joo, Glorimarta Linares, Arto Lindsay, Molly Nesbit, Hans Ulrich Obrist, Elizabeth Peyton, Aki Sasamoto, Shimabuku, and Dahn Vo, among others. Designed by Tiffany Malakooti, the publication is distributed by Artbook | D.A.P. / Distributed Art Publishers and available for \$55.

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SUPPORT

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ABOUT MoMA PS1

MoMA PS1 champions art and artists at the intersection of the social, cultural, and political issues of our time. Providing audiences with the agency to ask questions, access to knowledge, and a forum for public debate, PS1 has offered insight into artists' diverse worldviews for more than 40 years. Founded in 1976 by Alanna Heiss, the institution was a defining force in the alternative space movement in New York City, transforming a nineteenth century public schoolhouse in Long Island City into a site for artistic experimentation and creativity. PS1 has been a member of New York City's Cultural Institutions Group (CIG) since 1982 and affiliated with The Museum of Modern Art since 2000.

Hours: MoMA PS1 is open from 12 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Friday, Sunday, and Monday, and 12 to 8 p.m. on Saturday. Closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

Admission: \$10 suggested admission; \$5 for students and senior citizens; free for New York State residents and MoMA members. Free admission for New York State residents is made possible by The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation. Tickets may be reserved online at mo.ma/ps1tickets.

Digital Visitor Guide: Discover even more from MoMA PS1 with the Bloomberg Connects app. Read wall text, hear directly from artists, and uncover the building's history with this multimedia visitor guide. This digital experience is made possible through the support of Bloomberg Philanthropies.

Directions: MoMA PS1 is located at 22-25 Jackson Avenue at 46th Ave in Long Island City, Queens, across the Queensboro Bridge from midtown Manhattan. Traveling by subway, take the E, M, or 7 to Court Sq; or the G to Court Sq or 21 St Van Alst. By bus, take the Q67 to Jackson and 46th Ave or the B62 to 46th Ave.

Information: For general inquiries, call (718) 784-2084 or visit moma.org/ps1.

Press Contacts: Julia Fesser, (845) 625-9041 or julia_fesser@moma.org | Aga Sablinska, (862) 216-6485 or aga.sablinska@gmail.com

General Press Inquiries: press_momaps1@moma.org
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MoMA PS1
22-25 Jackson Ave
Long Island City, NY 11101