

# LOVE LETTERS IN ANCIENT BRICK

Mai-Thu Perret

in collaboration with Laurence Yadi

Performa 11 Premiere

Co-produced by Swiss Institute / Contemporary Art, New York  
and Association Feu Pâle, Geneva

November 3–5, 2011 | 8 pm Duration: 45 minutes

Joyce SoHo, 155 Mercer Street

direction **Mai-Thu Perret**

choreography **Mai-Thu Perret and Laurence Yadi**

performed by **Tamara Barnett-Herrin, Kais Chouibi, Jean-Louis Johannides, Margaux Monetti, Mai-Thu Perret, Anja Schmidt**

songwriting **Tamara Barnett-Herrin**

musical composition **Vincent de Roguin**

lighting creation **Ian Durrer**

costume design **Ligia Dias**

costume making **Marion Schmid**

set design **Mai-Thu Perret**

set construction **Stéphane Kropf with Mario Bustamonte and Lola Kramer**

stage manager and light technician **Guillaume Gex**

stage hands **Benjamin Anderson, AE, Mike Fagains, Marc Kokopeli, Viola Yesiltac, Rona Yefman**

sound technician **Stephen Greenberg**

photography **Daniel Perez**

administration **Marine Magnin**

graphic design **Marie Lusa and Loretta Wong**

ushers **Nai-Yun Peng, Francesca Divano, Martina Caruso**

Performa 11 (November 1–21, 2011) is the fourth edition of the internationally acclaimed biennial of new visual art performance presented by Performa, the leading organization dedicated to exploring the critical role of live performance in the history of twentieth-century art and to encouraging new directions in performance for the twenty-first century.

Visual artist Mai-Thu Perret presents *Love Letters In Ancient Brick*, her first project for the stage, realized in collaboration with choreographer Laurence Yadi. Inspired by George Herriman's famous comic book, *Krazy Kat*, Perret has developed a contemporary ballet depicting the curious love triangle of the protagonist *Krazy Kat*; the obsessive antagonist, *Ignatz Mouse*; and the protective police dog, *Offissa Bull Pupp*. The ensuing performance conjures up a primal, almost psychoanalytical drama where genres and categories are constantly slipped over and jumbled.

## ROUND ONE—KRAZY

A loose thought on a fragrant breeze  
To make comicality  
To make kupidity

Life is woofed and wrapped in dreams  
A circle of ecstasy

He'll keep his triss wit me

Fancy whiles I eats ice creams  
Pink lemonade I'll drink  
Wait for my lovely brick

Parasol held above me  
Dancing a minuet  
Wearing the highest hat

Skies are ashine with sheen  
Juliet and Romeo  
Kleo Antonio

Mites and motes in make-believe  
Rolling in sandy silk  
Drinking my buttermilk

A loose thought on a fragrant breeze  
All the world beams with beauty

A loose thought on a fragrant breeze  
All the world beams with beauty

Tamara Barnett-Herrin after George Herriman

World Premiere March 17th 2011 Théâtre de l'Usine—Geneva

Creation financially supported by Ville de Genève—Département de la culture, République et canton de Genève—Département de l'instruction publique DIP, Loterie Romande, Fondation Nestlé pour l'Art and Fondation Ernst Göhner.

Performances in New York have received financial support from Pro Helvetia, Swiss Arts Council; Geneva City, Fonds Municipal d'Art Contemporain (FMAC); Geneva State, Department of Education; Schweizerische Interpretenstiftung (SIS); David Kordansky Gallery; The Joyce Theater Foundation, which owns and operates Joyce SoHo; and with the support of Théâtre de l'Usine, Geneva.

## Biographies

**Mai-Thu Perret** is known in both Europe and the US for her ambitious multi-disciplinary practice encompassing sculpture, painting, video and installation. Perret has created a complex oeuvre which combines radical feminist politics with literary utopian texts, homemade crafts and 20th century avant-garde aesthetics.

Born in Geneva in 1976 and educated at Cambridge University, Perret's recent exhibitions have included *ILLUMInations* directed by Bice Curiger at the Venice Biennale (2011) and the solo exhibitions *I dream of the code of the west* at the Zürich Haus Konstruktiv (2011), *Spectra* at the Geneva Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (2011), *Migraine* at David Kordansky Gallery (2011), *Parade* at Timothy Taylor Gallery (2011), *New York* at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (2009), 2013 at Aspen Art Museum (2009), *The Crystal Frontier* at Kunsthalle Sankt Gallen, Switzerland, 2008; and *Maastricht's Bonnefanten Museum*, 2007. In 2011 she received the Zürich Art Prize and the Manor Price. In 2006 she was also the subject of a major solo exhibition at The Renaissance Society, University of Chicago, and in 2005 at the Centre d'art contemporain, Geneva. In 2007 she participated in the Lyon Biennale and in Eurocentric at the Rubell Family Collection in Miami. Perret lives and works in Geneva.

**Laurence Yadi / Choreography** is the co-founder of the Company7273 together with Nicolas Cantillon. She's known throughout Europe for her contemporary dance style. Born in Argenteuil (France) 1973 and educated at Alvin Ailey Centre in New York, Yadi's recent projects have included *Listen & Watch* (2009), a project in collaboration with the musicians Sir Richard Bishop and Steffen Basho Junghans, *Laï laï laï laï* (2008), *Merry-go-round* (2007), a project for the Geneva Junior Ballet, *En concert* (2007), a new research on the links between folk music and choreographic creation, *Climax* (2006), a solo piece interpreted by Cantillon, *Simple proposition* (2004), a research project about duos and the fragmentation of movement and inspired by this piece, the short film *Durée déterminée* (2005), produced by Frédéric Lombard and Jennifer Bonn. In 2007, Laurence Yadi's company received the Award for the Arts from the Liechti Foundation.

**Anja Schmidt / Performance** started studying at the age of 7 at the Ecole de danse de Genève and was from the age of 11 a member of the Ballet Junior of Geneva. She is the choreographic assistant for *The Making of Spectacles* and replaced Isabelle Rigat for the African tour of this piece. She created her first piece *Quarantaine* at the Théâtre de l'Usine in Genève in 2009.

**Kais Chouibi / Performance** started as a self-taught performer dancing hip-hop in the streets. In January 2011, he founded the duo "L'un, L'autre" for the Choreographic Meetings of Carthage, and begun a new creation with the Company Chatha for the piece "Kharebga".

**Jean-Louis Johannides / Performance** obtained a degree at the Geneva Higher School for Dramatic Art in 1996 and then worked with various independent producers such as Michel Barras, Evelyne Castellino, Oskar Gomez Mata, Sandra Amodio with whom he co-founded the Carré Rouge company, in 1999, with Vincent Babel. In

2006, he funded the En dérouté company and created “Construire un feu” (2007) and “Comock” (2010).

**Tamara Barnett-Herrin / Songwriting and Performance** was born in London and attended Cambridge University, where she read English Literature. She performed as lead vocalist with UK electronica act Freeform Five and has contributed vocal performances for various other artists including Lindstrom, Mylo, and Shinichi Osawa. She is vocalist and co-producer of London-based band Karla. Other collaborations with Mai-Thu Perret include the performance of ‘The Ballad of a Russian Doll’, at Migros Museum Zurich, and the short film ‘In Darkness Let Me Dwell’, produced with IDHEAP Lausanne.

**Vincent de Roguin / Music** is a Geneva-based composer and artist. His sound work consists of concrete and analogical synthesis sounds, in which he tirelessly reformulates questions of space and scale for the benefit of a more general reflection on the construction of reality. Stimulated by an energy derived from gesture, frequently pushing the electronic towards acoustic and vice versa, his compositions are rich in materials and right angles. He is a member of Æthenor and regularly works for theatre, radio and cinema.

**Ligia Dias / Costume Design** is a Swiss-born dress designer who lives in Paris. She founded her own jewellery line and has collaborated on projects with esteemed designers Rei Kawakubo from Comme de Garçons, and artists such as Karina Bisch and Mai-Thu Perret, for whom she has designing clothes for The Crystal Frontier project since 2004. In 2009 she won the Young French Creation Award given by ANDAM (Association Nationale pour le Développement des Arts et de la Mode – National Association for the Development of the Fashion Arts), and in 2010 she was the laureate of a residency at the Villa Kujoyama (Kyoto/Japan).

**Patrick Riou / Lighting Design** has worked with artists such as Angelin Preljocaj and Philippe Combes. He currently collaborates with young talents Gisèle Vienne and Olivier Dubois. In 2009, he met Laurence Yadi, with whom he collaborated on the lighting design for “Romance-s”, produced by the Company 72/73.

**Guillaume Gex / Light Technician** obtained a degree in live art light technique in 2000 and has created many lighting designs since then. He currently collaborates with young talents such as Jessica Huber and the MotherKingdom. He designs lights for dance, theater and concert productions.

#### **Swiss Institute**

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**Thank You:** RoseLee Goldberg, John Armleder, Linda Shelton, Cathy Eilers, Joshua Lenihan, Libby Koba, Bill Schafner, Gwyndolyn Kay, John Tremblay, Jonathan Schipper, Nuschä Wiczorek, and Nim Ben-Ruven