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## PRESS RELEASE

# DANSER SA VIE

## DANSE ET ARTS VISUELS AUX 20<sup>E</sup> ET 21<sup>E</sup> SIÈCLES

### 23 NOVEMBER 2011 – 2 APRIL 2012

#### GALERIE 1, LEVEL 6

The Centre Pompidou will present an unprecedented exhibition devoted to the relationship between dance and the visual arts, from 1900 to the present. Covering over 2,000 square metres, the exhibition draws on the Centre's tradition of major multidisciplinary shows, a tradition its president Alain Seban has said he wishes to revive. Both original and prolific, the theme will be explored through works by the greatest artistic figures of the 20th century, the contributions of the founding movements of artistic modernism, and the current explorations of important contemporary artists and dancers.

*Danser sa vie* shows how dance and the visual arts together struck the spark of modernity, inspiring both the major artistic movements and the key figures who made the history of modern and contemporary art.

Conjoining the modern with the contemporary, this exhibition in three acts will show how both art and dance have explored the body in movement. The exhibition *Danser sa vie* will allow us to discover this hidden aspect of the avant-garde art movements as a constant source of inspiration for contemporary art by establishing a dialogue between all the disciplines, of the choreographic as of the visual arts, from painting to contemporary video. A vast selection of paintings, sculptures, installations, films, videos and dance works will testify to the continual exchanges between them.

The title *Danser sa vie* [*Dancing Ones Life*] is taken from Isadora Duncan, the pioneer of modern dance: "My Art is just an effort to express the truth of my Being in gesture and movement ... Before the public which has thronged my representations I have had no hesitation. I have given them the most secret impulses of my soul. From the first I have only danced my life" (Isadora Duncan, *My Life*, New York, 1927).

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## AN EXHIBITION IN THREE SECTIONS

### **THE DANCE OF THE SENSES, FROM AUGUSTE RODIN TO MATTHEW BARNEY**

The invention of a new subjectivity is explored through the birth of a free dance emancipated from classical tradition. In Germany, in the years of Expressionism and of “Freikörperkultur” (Free Body Culture or “naturism”), there was a hitherto unprecedented exchange between artists and dancers, exemplified, for instance, in the relationship between dancer Mary Wigman and the painters Ernst Ludwig Kirchner and Emil Nolde. Later, other close relationships would be established, as for example between Martha Graham and sculptor Isamu Noguchi. From Vaslav Nijinsky to Matthew Barney, from Henri Matisse to Maya Deren, and Pina Bausch to Mike Kelley, film and contemporary art have both entertained a dialogue with the masters of modern dance.

### **THE ABSTRACTION OF THE BODY, FROM LOÏE FULLER TO ALWIN NIKOLAIS**

Here the birth of abstraction is viewed through the choreographic inventions of Loïe Fuller and the ways in which Kandinsky, the Cubists, the Futurists, the Bauhaus and the Russian avant-gardes made use of dance. Certain figures, such as Sophie Taeuber-Arp, were both dancers and visual artists. Others maintained a dialogue with dancers, as did Kandinsky with Gret Palucca and Calder with Josephine Baker. The explorations of Nicolas Schöffer and Alwin Nikolais then bring this story to a close with mechanical ballets, kinetic inventions and virtual dances. This section also includes a new work by Olafur Eliasson specially conceived for the exhibition.

### **THE BODY AS EVENT, FROM DADA TO JÉRÔME BEL**

This last section considers the connections between dance and performance art and vice versa, from the first Dada actions at Cabaret Voltaire to the deployment of tasks (gestures taken from everyday life) by dancer Anna Halprin, from the birth of the happening with Allan Kaprow to Black Mountain College. In the 1960s, Merce Cunningham engaged an artistic dialogue with John Cage, and indeed with Andy Warhol. A selection of works and documents looks back to the Judson Church in New York and then highlights the influence of popular clubbing and techno culture.

## LIVE PERFORMANCE

Performance-installations by Félix González-Torres and Tino Sehgal, and performances by Trisha Brown (supported by the Centre National de la Danse, Paris, and the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris) and young contemporary artists bring dance alive for this event.

## PUBLICATIONS

Éditions du Centre Pompidou will publish two works to mark the exhibition: a scholarly catalogue and an anthology of texts by choreographers, writers, dancers, artists and philosophers.

## ALONGSIDE THE EXHIBITION

A cycle of lectures and discussions and a programme organised by the Live Performance department (with Meg Stuart, Maria La Ribot, Olga de Soto, Myriam Gourfink, Herman Diephuis and others) will have the whole of the Centre Pompidou join the dance. So indeed will the cinemas, the regular Vidéodanse programme contributing the screening of 200 films, featuring the work of some hundred choreographers and retracing the history of modern and contemporary dance. The thematic organisation of this programme invites the viewer to note the successive “ruptures” and claims of filiation, in other words, to observe both the multiple dialogue that artists maintain with works of the past and the turbulent and complex process of the emergence of the new.

**LIST OF ARTISTS** (SUBJECT TO CHANGES)

Carl ANDRE	Loïe FULLER	Alwin NIKOLAÏS
Charles ATLAS	Valeska GERT	Kelly NIPPER
Joséphine BAKER	Felix GONZALEZ-TORRES	Isamu NOGUCHI
Matthew BARNEY	Martha GRAHAM	Emil NOLDE
Baroness Elsa von FREYTAG-LO- RINGHOVEN	Ann HALPRIN	Hélio OITICICA
Pina BAUSCH	Raoul HAUSMANN	Gret PALUCCA
Max BECKMANN	Alex HAY	Valentin PARNAC
Jérôme BEL	Deborah HAY	Steve PAXTON
Gerhard BOHNER	Vilmos HUSZAR	Mai-Thu PERRET
Frédéric BOISSONNAS	Niddy IMPEKOVEN	Francis PICABIA
Antoine BOURDELLE	Jasper JOHNS	Pablo PICASSO / Hans NAMUTH
Constantin BRANCUSI	Kurt JOOSS	Jackson POLLOCK
Trisha BROWN	Vassily KANDINSKY	Yvonne RAINER
Alexander CALDER	Allan KAPROW	Robert RAUSCHENBERG
Giannina CENSI	Anne Teresa De KEERSMAEKER	Man RAY
Etienne CHAMBAUD	/ Thierry DE MEY	Christian RIZZO
Lucinda CHILDS / Sol LE WITT	Ernst Ludwig KIRCHNER	Auguste RODIN
René CLAIR	Yves KLEIN	Alexandre RODTCHENKO
Lizica CODREANO	Harald KREUTZBERG	Charlotte RUDOLPH
Merce CUNNINGHAM	Frantisek KUPKA	Jia RUSKAJA
Emile JAKUES- DALCROZE	Rudolf von LABAN	Alexander SACHAROFF
Sonia DELAUNAY	Ange LECCIA	Valentine de SAINT-POINT
François DELSARTE	Fernand LEGER	Kazuo SHIRAGA
Fortunato DEPERO	René LE SOMPTIER	Lavinia SCHULZ & Walter HOLDT
André DERAÏN	Babette MANGOLTE	Oskar SCHLEMMER
Théo van DOESBURG	Daria MARTIN	Carolee SCHNEEMANN
Isadora DUNCAN	Henri MATISSE	Kurt SCHMIDT
Olafur ELIASSON	Vsevolod MEYERHOLD	Nicolas SCHÖFFER
Boris ERDMAN / Nikolai FOREGGER	Jeff MILLS	Tino SEHGAL
Nicolas FLOCH / Rachid OURAMDANE	Simon DYBBROE MØLLER	Gino SEVERINI
Jan FABRE	Robert MORRIS	Varvara STEPANOVA
William FORSYTHE	Tomoyoshi MURAYAMA	Sophie TAEUBER-ARP
	Eadweard MUYBRIDGE	Andy WARHOL
	Bruce NAUMAN	Mary WIGMAN
	Vaslaw NIJINSKY	

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métro

**Hôtel de Ville, Rambuteau****Opening**

Exhibition open

11am – 9pm every day

except Tuesdays

Late opening Thursdays

until 11 pm

**Admission**€10 - €12, depending on time,  
concessions €8 - €9Ticket valid the same day for the  
Musée National d'Art Moderne  
and all exhibitionsFree for under-18s and  
members of the Centre Pompidou  
(holders of the annual pass)Buy tickets on-line and print  
at home:**[www.centrepompidou.fr](http://www.centrepompidou.fr)****AT THE SAME TIME AT THE CENTRE****EDVARD MUNCH****L'ŒIL MODERNE 1900-1944**

21 SEPTEMBER 2011 -

9 JANUARY 2012

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Sébastien Gravier

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**CYPRIEN GAILLARD****PRIX MARCEL DUCHAMP**

21 SEPTEMBER 2011 -

9 JANUARY 2012

press officer

Dorothee Mireux

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**CHRISTIAN DOTREMONT**

12 OCTOBRE 2011 -

2 JANUARY 2012

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Céline Janvier

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**MARTIN SZEKELY**

12 OCTOBER 2011 -

2 JANUARY 2012

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**YAYOI KUSAMA**

19 OCTOBER 2011 -

9 JANUARY 2012

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exhibition design